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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 20TH MAY.

A VERY important question was lately tried by the Privy Council, *viz.*, whether the Jains have the right of adoption. The case was first tried by the Subordinate Judge of Meerut. The points raised were that according to the custom of the Jains a widow could not adopt without the consent of the near relatives of her deceased husband; that the Jain law was identical with the Hindu law, and that a daughter's son could not be adopted. At the suggestion of the High Court the leading members of the Jain community in Delhi, Banares and Muttra were examined on the above points. These proved that by the customs of the Jains a widow succeeds to the moveable and immoveable property of her husband in such absolute right that she can deal with it at pleasure and without restriction; that she can adopt her daughter's son without receiving any authority from her husband or his relatives, and that such adopted son would succeed to her husband's estate in the same manner as her own son would have done. The Subordinate Judge of Meerut, accordingly, passed a decree to this effect, and that decision was afterwards substantially upheld by the High Court. From these judgments the present appeal was instituted. It was stated in the course of the case that the sect of the Jain has for upwards of 11 or 12 centuries seceded from the creed of the Vedas, and their religious tenets had more affinity with the precepts of the Buddhists than with those of the Brahmins. They recognized the caste system of the Brahminical Hindus, and in such ceremonies as they retained generally availed themselves of the assistance of a Brahmin. They differed, however, from the Brahminical Hindus in their conduct towards the dead, omitting all obsequies after the corpse is burnt or buried. They also regarded the birth of a son as having no effect on the future state of his progenitor, and consequently adoption was a merely temporal arrangement and had no spiritual object. We give below an abstract of the judgment of the Privy Council:

"Their Lordships in giving judgment observed that in most of the cases the Court had held that there was no sufficient proof of the existence of special customs among the Jains to displace or modify the general Hindu law, but in others where sufficient proof of special customs appeared effect had been given to them. The Jains might be governed as to some matters by special laws and usages and where these were satisfactorily proved effect ought to be given to them. It would certainly have been remarkable if it had appeared that in India where under the system of jurisprudence established by the British Government a large toleration was as a rule allowed to usages and customs differing from the ordinary law whether Hindu or Mahomedan the Courts had denied to the large and wealthy communities existing among the Janes the privilege of being governed by their own peculiar laws and customs, when those laws and customs were by sufficient evidence capable of being ascertained and defined and were not open to objection on grounds of public policy or otherwise. After reviewing the matter at some length their Lordships said they would humbly recommend Her Majesty to affirm the decree of the High Court with costs."

We hope the full judgment of the Privy Council in this case will be published.

IT IS stated that Mr. A. W. Garrett, Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, has laid a proposal before the Director of Public Instruction to the effect that no married person be admitted to the University Entrance Examination, exception being made in the case of those only who may be married at the time of the publication of the rule. Mr. Croft has invited the opinion of Native members of District Committees of Public Instruction on the question. However desirable it may be to prevent early marriage, it would be absurd to deny University education on that score.

WE ARE told that some Turkomans from about Merv lately made a raid upon the Northern frontier of Afghanistan, in the direction of Maimena, and were repulsed with considerable loss.

WE ARE SORRY to learn that the wife of Mr. John Bright, M.P., died on Monday last. Mr. Bright was devotedly attached to his wife, and her loss, coupled with his own failing health, may lead him to take an even less active part than he has lately done in public affairs. This is a public calamity.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Englishman* says that a wealthy Unitarian, and once West-Indian proprietor, bequeathed £1000 a year to advance the "spread of Christianity in its most simple and intelligible form," and "the unfettered exercise of the right of private judgment in matters of religion." The bequest is now taking effect, and the trustees have instituted a Hibbert lectureship on religion. Max Muller has been appointed the first lecturer. He has chosen for his subject "The Origin and Growth of Religion, as illustrated by the Religions of India."

THE FOLLOWING case is a fair index to the state of feeling in Russia. Vera Sassulitch, a young woman of twenty-six, made an attempt on the life of the Prefect of St. Petersburg, General Trepoff, because he caused a political prisoner, who had been guilty of some breach of prisons law, to be flogged. She was taken in the very act, she made no attempt to deny or explain her guilt; she did not seek to palliate it. She expressed a profound indifference whether she killed or wounded the Prefect. Yet the jury which tried her brought in a verdict of "Not Guilty," from which it is argued that the sympathy which exists with the attempt of Vera Sassulitch is the measure of the hatred which exists among the Russian people towards the institutions under which they live. Since knouting was abolished in 1863, corporal punishment has been held in the greatest detestation throughout Russia, and General Trepoff has been denounced by less violent persons than his femenine assailant as a "Bashi-Bazouk nearer home than Bulgaria."

TUESDAY, 21ST MAY.

ELECTRICITY has been found to be useful in horse breaking. Some experiments have been made at Brussels in breaking in horses by means of an electric bridle. The apparatus, called the Enstrum Bridle after its inventor, consists simply of a couple of reins along which run electric wires. At the end of the reins a small electric battery is attached, which is entirely in the power of the experimenter. By pressing on a little knob the electric current acts on the corners of the horse's mouth, and after a few consecutive or intermitting shocks the animal becomes perfectly docile. A very intractable mare was broken in after one experiment with the bridle. The inventor asserts that runaway horses can immediately be brought to a standstill by means of this apparatus

LAST WEEK the Protest party of the Brahma Somaj of India held a public meeting for the organization of a new Church. The following Resolutions were passed:

I. That this meeting deeply deplores the want of a constitutional organization in the Brahmo Somaj and does hereby establish a Somaj to be called. "The Shadharna Brahmo Somaj" with a view to remove the serious and manifold evils resulting from this state of things, and to secure the representation of the views and the harmonious co-operation, of the general Brahmo Community, in all that affects the progress and well-being of the Theistic cause and Theistic work in India.

II. That all persons believing in the fundamental principles of Brahmoism, not less than 18 years of age, and paying a minimum annual subscription of 8 ans. shall be eligible as members of "The Shadharana Brahmo Somaj" and all Muffusil Brahmo Somajes in sympathy with the objects of the Shadharana Brahmo Somaj and paying annual subscription to be hereafter determined, shall be affiliated with the Shadharana Brahmo Somaj, and shall have the privilege of returning members to the general Committee.

III. That Baboo Shib Chunder Deb be elected Secretary Babu Umesh Chunder Dutt Assistant Secretary of the Somaj, and that the following gentlemen with power to add to their, number do constitute the general Committee of the said Somaj.

V. That rules regarding the constitution and management of the Shadharana Brahmo, Somaj be framed and circulated among the Moffussil Brohmo Somaj and submitted by the Committee at a general meeting of the members of that Somaj within two months.

IT IS stated that a despatch has been received from the Secretary of State directing the Government of India to stop further operations connected with the proposed Government House at Simla during the continuance of financial pressure. But considerable money has been already spent in preparing the site.

A COMMITTEE has been ordered to assemble at Bombay to consider the question of details connected with the despatch of troops beyond the seas. The following are the points which have been referred to the Committee:

1. What is the best size for iron tanks? What number could be made up in, say, a fortnight? What would be the capacity of tanks so made up, estimated in gallons?

2. Irrespective of the number which can be made available within a fortnight, what are the most advisable means for arranging for a future supply in the event of possible requirements for foreign service?

3. What number of wooden casks could be made of with advantage in Bombay?

4. How long will it take to make new wooden tanks serviceable by soaking, and what is the respective cost of wooden and iron tanks.

5. How many water barges, with steam pumps, can be made available in Bombay? How much water could be daily supplied to transports, consistently with the ordinary requirements of the harbour; and with the means lasting for the supply of water on shore? How can these means be augmented?

6. Can the water supply for transports be taken from some point nearer than the main pipe at Mazagon?

7. Can a Commissariat pier be constructed immediately near the Commissariat head-quarters. Can the supply depot be established near such a pier? Would this arrangement greatly facilitate the despatch of supplies to troopships?

8. Can any mechanical contrivance be quickly constructed for use between decks of ships carrying horses, for better ventilation?

9. How many steam launches are available immediately in the harbour? Are these sufficient for the rapid despatch of a force; if not, how can the number and strength be rapidly increased?

10. What is the number of barges for embarking horses available in Bombay? Is the number sufficient, if not, how can the number be increased and maintained?

Does not the appointment of this Committee look like a reflection upon the management of the Bombay Government in fitting out the Malta expedition?

THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT has given birth to an original idea. It recommends that vernacular teachers drawing Rs. 15 per mensem or upwards should subscribe towards their pension, and pay up such arrears as might be due under the rules for past services. We are glad to learn that the Government of India is not likely to accede to this recommendation.

A COMPANY has been formed in Paris for working the electric light. Its capital is 7,500,000 francs. It is called the *Societe Geueraled' Electricite*. In the face of the experiments of electric light the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta is making a contract with the Oriental Gas Company for the illumination of the town for 21 years without making any provision for improved process of lighting.

ACCORDING TO a Vienna paper, the St. Petersburgh Government has taken steps to insure a through railway communication from St. Petersburgh to Constantinople, by next autumn.

THE FEELING in Russia against England is so bitter, says *Mayfair*, that Englishmen at St. Petersbourgh, who exceed 2,000 in number, and form the richest portion of the foreign community, are rigorously excluded from Russian society. Invitation lists for public assemblies, balls, club meetings, and scientific seances are closely scanned by their respective committees before being sanctioned, and every English name is carefully struck out.

THE LONDON EXAMINER says:

"Mr. Hardy was very angry on Monday night because Mr. Gladstone characterised a certain passage of Lord Salisbury's despatch as showing the spirit of mean attorney and the meanest of attorneys. Some of those who heard Mr. Hardy must, however have had their memories carried back to a debate in the House some fifteen years ago when as now Lord Salisbury and Mr. Gladstone were opponents, and when much the same terms used. But on that occasion Lord Salisbury, then Lord Robert Cecil was the aggressor. He compared Mr. Gladstones financial policy to the practice of a pettifogging attorney. The House murmured but did not interfere. The next night however Lord Robert Cecil rose to express his regret for words used in the heat of the previous nights debate words which he felt were not justifiable. He therefore begged leave to tender his sincere apologies to—the attorneys. It is an interesting example of historical repetition that Mr. Gladstone should found cause so long after to couch an attack on Lord Salisbury in almost the same language.

Such is the etiquette of political life.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND MAY.

A LONDON contemporary says: "It is much to be desired that the House of Commons could not make up its mind as to the pronunciation of Count Schouvaloff's name. Some members call him "Schou-valoff," others call him "Schouva-loff;" a few describe him as "Schouvalow;" one or two speak of him as "Shoveloff," while one member the other night convulsed the House by alluding to him as "Lord Schouvaloff." The House of Commons should not allow itself such license as a distinguished drama which appeared on the London stage some ten years ago, and in which the name of the Duke de Choiseul, who appeared in it, was pronounced some fifteen defferent ways, from "chisel" to "chuzzle."

AFTER MUCH hesitation it has been determined to examine the bed of the Tiber. A Commission has been gazetted, which is to have the superintendence of the works, and M. Geffroy,

Director of the French School of Rome, has been nominated as one of its members. It is to be hoped that the Tiber may at last render up many treasures of inestimable value to students of ancient and mediæval archæology and art.

ACCORDING to a London paper, a party of Russian engineer officers, a colonel, major and eleven others, passed through Rome lately on their way to Suez and the Persian Gulf meaning to return to Russia through Persia. What does this mean? Will Persia be the battle-ground between England and Russia?

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Pioneer* has the following: "It is hardly credible, but it is nevertheless a fact that Mr. O'Donnell, the most violent and the most unscrupulous of the Parnell section, is a leader-writer in the columns of the fashionable and lucrative *Morning Post*. Mr. Justyn M'Carthy, another leading spirit among the London Home Rulers, is a leader-writer on the staff of the *Daily News*, and they are both exceptionally able as journalists."

THE Countess Helena Gazaweka has been arrested lately at Vienna for defrauding jewellers. It has been already proved that, within a comparatively short time, her frauds at Paris amounted to 20,000fr., at Marseilles to 150, 000, at Yverdun to 60,000fr., at Nice to 35,000fr., at Monaco to 200,000fr, at Brussels to 10,000fr., &c. The countess disposed of the jewels thus obtained to persons in good society, whom she made believe that the jewels were her own, and that she sold them in order to help the Russian wounded. Charity is the usual cloak for crime.

THE Tudor Company has collapsed in Bombay. The local Agent, for some weeks past, had been getting a partial supply of ice from Madras; now the Madras ice supply is failing, and the Bombay supply is cut off.

PUNCH has the following:

SALISBURY TO RUSSIA.
(*A Love Song a la Laureate*)

Your cue's reserve, whilst unreserve is ours,
How shall we then discuss as equal powers?
Reserve in one means want of trust in all.
It is the flaw within this Congress-plan
Which by-and-by would set us man 'gainst man
And ever widening soon upset us all.
This discord in our Concert winked at now,
Would surely issue in a general row.
Hush it or we'll no Congress have at all.
'Tis hardly worth the having: let it go.
But shall it? Answer, Bismarck, yes or no.
But no reserve! Or we'll not meet at all!

THURSDAY, 23RD MAY.

THE LIBRARIAN of the India Office has recently forwarded to the Under-Secretary of State for India a paper of remarks by Mr. Kittel and a letter from Sir Walter Elliott, referring to a proposal to assist by a subvention of £1000 to be spread over seven years, the publication of a scientific dictionary of the Canarese language to be brought out by Mr. Kittel with the assistance of the Bible Missionary Society. Before forming any opinion as to the extent to which such a work is deserving of Government support, the Secretary of State refers to the Bombay and Madras Governments to know how far the need of it is felt for administrative purposes in the districts of the Madras Presidency, in which the Canarese language is spoken.

THE BURAINIS, a sub-division of the Subaihi tribe of Arabs near Aden, having at the end of March last murdered some Arabs and Somalis, who were under British protection, and having obstructed the land communications between Aden and Perim, and also, between Aden and the Turkish frontier, a small body of troops was sent out from Aden, on April 7th to punish the offenders The force consisted of 20 rank and file Royal Artillery with two camel mountain train guns, 20 rank and file sappers and miners, 50 rank and file of the 25th N. I. I. with 6 European Officers (including a medical officer) and a few sabres of the Aden Troop. The force returned to Aden on the 20th of April, all well; having effectually punished the Burainis and destroyed their forts, with no casualty of any kind, Sultan Ahmadhin Husain, the newly elected chief of the Fudhli tribes of Arabs, accompanied by a large number of followers, paid his first visits to the Resident at Aden on the 13th and 16th instants. The two Egyptian Government Steamers which for the past two years have maintained a fortnightly service between the African coast and Aden have now ceased to ply by order of Gordon Pasha, Governor-General of the Soudhan.

WE UNDERSTAND that Sir Lewis Pelly has obtained six months extension of leave. We hope this news will quiet the speculations of some of our contemporaries as to the future of Sir Lewis Pelly.

WE ARE informed that Telegraphic communication with Khelat was opened on the 19th instant.

A CORRESPONDENT from Midnapore gives it as a rumour that the Contai sub-division of the Midnapore district will be annexed to Balasore. This, if true, he is of opinion, will be a move in the wrong direction. It will put the people of the Contai sub-division to much trouble and expense without effecting any saving in public expenditure. Balasore is not a full district, its civil jurisdiction is comprised in that of the district of Cuttack, the Judge of which pays periodical visits to Balasore for holding sessions, while civil cases are heard at Cuttack. If Contai be included in Balasore it will require a separate Judge. Instead of annexing Contai to Balasore, our correspondent thinks, it will be more convenient to incorporate Balasore with Midnapore, as the two districts are within a convenient distance of each other. While we agree with our correspondent that Contai should not be annexed to Balasore, we are of opinion that it would not be convenient to incorporate the district of Midnapore and Balasore. The two revenue systems prevalent in the two districts are a serious bar to the amalgamation.

WE UNDERSTAND that, as a special case, and on the recommendation of the Government of India, the Secretary of State has sanctioned the grant of an invalid pension of Rs. 120 a month to Moungkyaw Doon, late Extra Assistant Commissioner, 1st class, 1st grade in British Burmah. This officer served the Government for a long period, and did good and useful work.

WE UNDERSTAND that a special pension of Rs. 150 a month has been granted by the Secretary of State to Mr. Parthasarathy Pillay, late 1st grade District Munsiff, Nedunganad in the Malabar District, Madras.

FOUR YEARS ago the Government of India proposed that Dockyard and Military Artificers should be granted pensions equal to three-fourths of what they would obtain under the Civil Code, if their service on pay exceeding Rs. 10 a month were reckoned superior, and it was recommended that a rule should be passed permitting the Bombay Government to grant such pensions, subject to the conditions that pensions should be awarded under this rule only to men incapacitated for further work and that no artificer who had rendered less than 25 years' actual service excluding breaks and absence from duty of every kind should receive a pension without the concurrence of the Government of India. Upon the stong representation of that Government the Secretary of State has now sanctioned the passing of a rule to this effect.

FRIDAY, 24TH MAY.

A CORRESPONDENT suggests that the inhabitants of the epidemic fever districts ought to testify their gratitude to Raja Degumber Mitter for his persevering advocacy of their cause and for the success he has at last achieved by securing a hearing of the Government.

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE states that "a reign of terror prevails at Surat in consequence of the revengeful and tyrannous prosecutions of the vernacular editors and others charged with inciting the riots." We abstain from making comments till the enquiry is over.

THE FOLLOWING gentlemen have been appointed Municipal Commissioners for the Suburbs of Calcutta: Mr. James Blackburn, C. E., Babu Shama Churn Law, Rai. Jadub Chunder Ghose Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mohini Mohun Roy, Dr. Galloway, Dr. Sourendra Mohun Tagore, Babu Nundo Lall Mullick, and Babu Kali Prosunno Ghose. The soul of the Subarban Municipality is gone with the retirement of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra by rotation. Why is he not re-elected?

THE HIGH COURT has issued the following rule:

"The Court are pleased to direct that whenever proof of due service of notice of appeal or the like process appears to fail in consequence of an omission on the part of the appellant or party concerned to produce a witness to prove the identity of the party served, or of his place of residence, a reasonable time shall be allowed for the production of such witness, where the omission has been the result of ignorance, and when return of the process will not thereby be unduly delayed.

WE ARE GLAD to notice that the pauperized condition of the ryots in Madras and Bombay is attracting attention. The *Englishman* says:

"The state of the Deccan according to all accounts, is sufficiently terrible to call for searching enquiry and shows how far the Government as yet are from having mastered even the elements of the relief problem. Let us take, for instance, the district on Mudibihal, which contains, or did comprise 151 villages. In these hamlets dwelt twenty months ago a population of 83.700 souls, also much cattle. These are the statistics of population for July 31st 1876:—

Men	25,679
Women	26,863
Children	31,209
	83,751

On July 31st, 1877, there were only—

Men	20,033
Women	22,426
Children	21,143
	63,622
Deficit	20,129 soul

showing a loss of population amounting to 24 per cent. in twelve months. Farther we find that the deaths in that taluq from August 1877 to February 1878 both inclusive amounted to 4,117, and the births to 247 only representing a ratio of one birth to about 16½ deaths not a very hopeful prospects this for the land revenue to say. Nothing of the people. The 4,600 additional deaths serve to make the aggregate decrease of population since July 1876 nearly 30 per cent.

Such were the ravages of the Famine. The question is why were the people so helpless in resisting the pressure of the Famine. We hope the Famine Commission will answer this question.

THE SAME CONTEMPORARY thus continues his remarks on the condition of the Deccan peasantry:

"One circumstance which crops up all through this rough village census seems to mark off the cultivators' economic position with sharp distinction. The *rubi* crop has served to pay the first instalment of the assessment. The people are living as we have described—a few of the more fortunate having a little stock of jowari or retain their bullocks. But as regards all the villages, it is said if the second instalment of revenue is pressed for only the latter class just referred to can pay it and that is by dint of selling off their little store of grain or their bullocks; then they must fall back on the refuse and husks which serve their still poorer neighbours at present. How either class are to subsist until the monsoon sustain the change of climate then, and prepare their fields for seed, are questions beyond our skill to answer. The wretchedness we have delineated is now prevalent through thousands of square miles of country in the Deccan and over still wider areas in the Madras presidency."

We again commend the subject to the Famine Commission.

OUR ASSAM CORRESPONDENT writes:

On the 14th instant at about 8 o' clock A. M. the River Steamer Company's steamer "Nepal" anchored at Dhubri *en route* to Dibrughur. You know Dhubri is an embarkation place for the emigrants to Assam, where a Superintendent and a Medical Inspector are quartered, but both of these officers were absent at the time the Steamer in question came in. The agents, of the several depots were eager to ship their respective coolies. Many of whom actually got on board with their stores, but in the mean time arrived the I. G. S. N Company's steamer "Patna," showing eagerness to take all the coolies in question, which resulted in a war of words among all concerned. The arguments in favor of "Nepal" were that she had on board a good European Doctor, she came in first and detained under promise from proper quarters to ship the coolies many of whom with their stores actually got on board and that another Steamer "Oudh," belonging to the same company nearly a month ago was similarly detained but allowed to take no coolies on board. The war of words among the two Steamer officers and the cooly Agents went so far as to require the local *Magistrate to issue orders to the Police to prevent a breach of the peace* The affair reminded me of your saying that when the Greek meets the Greek then we see the tug of war."

THE DEATHS in Calcutta during the week ending 18th current aggregated 311, which shews a decided improvement compared with the preceding week. The deaths from small-pox came down from 105 to 83, those from fever still maintain a high figure, the number being 78; the deaths from diarrhœa and dysentery were only 16, from cholera. 26, and from tetanus 16, and the rest from other causes. Fourteen children were still-born and one person died from old age. One person of the mixed races died from small-pox and two non-Asiatics and one of the mixed races died from cholera.

SATURDAY, 18TH MAY.

A CORRESPONDENT suggests the establishment of a rest house and refreshment rooms for Hindu visitors, both men and women, to the Zoo. If a Hindu visiting the Zoo with his family calls for a glass of water, he cannot get it, though the employes are uniformly kind and courteous.

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT that the dog days have set in when the *Statesman* considers it necessary for an analysis of our mental constitution, because we thought it our duty to give expression to the feelings of the people of Orissa regarding the sentence passed on the Raja of Pooree. We said that the Hindu community of Orissa while admitting the justice of the sentence would feel grateful if it were commuted into an imprisonment for a few years, so that they may have the opportunity of receiving back the Raja as a reclaimed man. The writer is of opinion that it is not the duty of the Indian journalist to give expression to the sentiments of the people, because they are ignorant, superstitious and prejudiced. A novel doctrine of Indian journalism. Is not the mental constitution of a writer who propounds such a doctrine, a fit subject for investigation?

THE INTELLECTUAL abilities of the Japanese race, says *Nature*, have been evidenced in a striking manner by a quartette of students from that country now studying in Berlin. One of these, Dr. Dirokiato, has lately invented an ingenious optical instrument termed the leucoscope, which measures the variations in the perception of light and colour by the human eye, in accordance with the strictest mathematical laws. Another, who has attained the rank of Lieutenant in the Prussian army, has introduced a re-

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markable simplification into the mechanism of the Mauser rifle, which has succeeded the historic needle-gun. Two more, who are prosecuting their chemical studies under Professor Hofmann, have published for the years past several interesting synthetical researches on the armatic series. An example for Indians who go to Europe for education.

WE ARE REQUESTED to announce that the next Hare Anniversary takes place at the premises of the Science Association on ensuing Saturday, the 1st June, at 5-30 P. M. Babu Surendranath Banerjea will deliver a discourse on "Lord Macaulay on the education of the Natives of India."

WE ARE GLAD to notice that *Bharat Sromojibi* or the *Indian Workman* has come out in an enlarged size. It is a very useful publication for the class of people for whom it is intended, and as the proprietors propose to give plates in illustration of different subjects connected with India and Europe, the reader will find increased interest in it. We commend this paper to zemindars in the Mofussil for circulation among their tenantry. The *chasa*, who has acquired the three Rs, will find no small fund of instruction and amusement in it.

A CORRESPONDENT at Julpigori sends the following report of the extension of the line of the Northern Bengal State Railway to Siliguri:

Permit me through the columns of your well known journal to give publicity to the opening of the Silligori extension of the N. B. S. Railway on the first proximo. The Engineer-in-Chief accompanied by Consulting Engineer Captain Clark inspected the line on the 22nd instant. Temporary stations and Telegraph Offices are completed, Temporary bridges constructed over 4 major bridges and 2 or 3 minor bridges over which Engine will run at 5 miles an hour. Tea will now be carried by rail from Siligori. The construction of this portion of the line is well executed and within a very short time. This extension would have been completed in February last had permanent way materials been received in time. Not this alone retarded its completion. Fever was prevalent and is still raging violently. Coolies, masons, platelayers and moulders all left this place many died from this fell disease. To avert this calamity special medical establishment was retained. But the Doctor was not sent in time to stamp out the epidemic. An Engine and trucks to carry materials to the line were not provided for until it was too late. This was owing to deficiency in rolling stock of the line. Work suffered much for want of Engineering tools and stores. Credit is due to the Executive Engineer Mr. T. E. Owen who, in spite of the above inconviniences, completed this portion of the line so quickly. Such a hard-working Engineer is somewhat rare. He works day and night. It is to be hoped that Government will appreciate his merits.

WE HEAR that Captain Boileau, Private Secretary to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, has been appointed Cantonment Magistrate of Dinapore, in succession to Colonel Emerson, who retires under the 55 years' rule. Captain Boileau's name is already borne on the list of the Bengal Commission.

THE ENGLISHMAN notices a very useful work, which is being quietly done by Babu Udoychand Dutt, Civil Surgeon of Furreedpore. He has been teaching some village Kubirajes in his dispensary the principles of modern medical science and surgery. He gives them stipends of four rupees per month, and the course of study extends over six months. As one batch goes out another comes in. The Kabirajes are thus taught much useful knowledge, while their ideas are not elevated above their normal level.

PERHAPS no Royal family in the world has such an extensive list as that of Siam. The list of living members of the royal family of Siam has been published in the *Siam Advertiser*, and we learn from it that there were as many as seventy-one princes of Siam living at one time, and that the late King had thirty-five wives in his harem and by them eighty-four children. The late second King of Siam had thirty-one wives and sixty-three children.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the twelfth annual report of the Barabanagar Hindu School. We are glad to notice that this institution is flourishing. In 1877 five students went up for the Entrance Examination, three of whom passed successfully. The managers are now desirous to secure a local habitation for the school. We wish them every success.

WE ARE SORRY to record the death of Rev. Surjo Coomar Ghose, Pastor of the Bhowanipore Congregational Church. In him, says the *Indian Christian Herald*, "the Bengal Church has lost her best and most popular preacher, and a most devoted friend of the poor and helpless."

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Indian Charivari* is quite up to mark. The excellent Chief Commissioner of Mysore, Mr. Gordon, is the subject of the Album portrait. The cartoon is well done, and the letter press very readable.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a telegram from Dacca to the effect that the new Water Works there were opened yesterday by the Commissioner with great ceremony in the presence of all the Civil and Military Officers, a number of ladies, and native gentlemen. The ceremony was opened by the Executive Engineer reading some papers. Major Smyth and the Commissioner then made very good speeches, at the end of which the Nawab Khajeh Abdul Gunny read an appropriate reply. The party then adjourned to the Engine house and the Nawab started the Engine. A salute of 101 bombs was fired in honor of Her Majesty's Birth-day and the Water Works declared to be open. The Nawab entertained his European friends to a sumptuous breakfast after the ceremony. The native gentlemen returned home to discuss their homely fare.

A MYSTERIOUS poisoning case occurred on Thursday last in Shamposker Street in this town. The victim was a wealthy Guru of some of the most respectable families of this city. The Police are on the alert, but we hear that they have not yet succeeded in unravelling the case.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications:—1. Indian Meteorological Memoirs. Vol. I. Part II. 2. Vyavastha-Chandrika—a Digest of Hindu Law (English) Vol. I. By Shamacharn Sircar Vidya-Bhusan. 3. Ditto—in Sanskrit and Persian—By Ditto. 4. Twelfth Annual Report of the Barahanagar Hindu School, for 1877. 5. "Jaggannath"—a Poem in English. 6. Warren Hastings in Lower Bengal reprinted from the *Calcutta Review*. 7. Report of the Ahiritollah Government Aided Bunga Vidyalya for 1877.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 20th May.—The Russian Ambassador at Constantinople and General Todleben have assured the Porte that the movements of the Russian troops are solely being made for reasons of health, and that no hostile intention is meant. Count Schouvaloff arrived at Berlin this morning.

21*st.*—In the Commons last night, Lord Hartington moved that, except in India, no forces shall be raised and kept by the Crown in time of peace, without the sanction of Parliament. His Lordship said the transfer of Indian troops to Europe increased the regular army, which was unconstitutional without the sanction of Parliament, and that the moment the Indian Expeditionary Force started, it became a charge on the Imperial exchequer, to which Parliament had not given its assent. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, in moving his amendment that the control of Parliament over the employment of military forces was fully secured by the right to refuse supplies, denied that the Government had been guilty of unconstitutional procedure. The Act of 1858, he said, authorized the employment of the Indian army wherever it was ordered, and that the Government wished to show that it wielded the forces of a vast united empire. Messrs. Morgan, Laing, and Harcourt opposed the amendment of Sir Hicks-Beach, and stated that the constitution had been violated. Messrs. Caplin and Stanhope supported the amendment. The debate was then adjourned until to-morrow. In the House of Lords Lord Selborne, whilst refraining to submit a formal motion called attention to the unconstitutional procedure of Government, and said the measure taken was in violation of the mutiny Act. Lord Cairns denied that the prerogative of the Crown had been strained. The Earl of Granville criticised the action of Government in withholding their intentions as to the expedition, from Parliament. The Earl Beaconsfield declined, under present circumstances, to vindicate his policy, which, he said, aimed at securing the peace and freedom of Europe, and position for the country. Sir Stafford Northcote, in reply to a question, said that the Government had not yet formally approved of the Chefoo Convention, but an early decision was probable. Several clauses, he said, require the assent of the Treaty Powers. The Indian Government had been consulted concerning the opium trade. The strikers in Lancashire have resolved to submit the questions in connection with the strike to a ballot.

Obituary.—Sir William Grey.

22*nd.*—In the Commons last night the Attorney General in reply to a question, said that the Government had received no information that vessels bought by Russian agents in America were destined for privateers, and that Government had no reason to apprehend that either Russia or America would violate treaty obligations. The debate on Lord Hartington's motion was resumed last night. Mr. Fawcet gave notice that if the resolution was rejected, he would shortly move that a reduction be made in the excessive expenditure on the Indian army, in order to relieve the burden of taxation. The Attorney-General and Mr. Gladstone argued on the legal points: the latter protested against making a precedent act, which violated constitutional liberties. Mr. Newdegate (Conservative) supported the resolution, desiring to assert the constitutional rights of Parliament. The debate which was of a desultory nature, was again adjourned until Thursday.

22*nd.*—Count Schouvaloff arrived here this evening, and will interview Lord Salisbury to-morrow.

23*rd.*—The strictest secrecy is observed as to the result of Count Schouvaloff's mission pending the reply of the British Government. Opinion prevails that peace will be maintained, and that an European congress will meet at an early date. Supplementary estimates on account of the Indian contingent are set down at 350,000 pounds for the army and 395,000 for the Navy. The *Times* of this afternoon says that the Dread of imperialism influences the liberal party in connection with the discussion on the employment of the Indian army in Europe.

24*th.*—The Duke of Cambridge is going to Malta to inspect the Indian Contingent. The Shah of Persia has arrived at St. Petersburg. The result of the striker's ballot is that they have rejected by an overwhelming majority the proposal to resume work for three months at ten per cent. reduction and that if trade is then improved wages would be increased.

24*th.*—The debate on Lord Hartington's motion was resumed in the House of Commons last night and was confined to Indian topics the policy of Government in the Eastern question not being touched upon. Mr. Cross and Sir Stafford Northcote besides other members of the Conservative party maintained that the Queen in time of imminent danger exercised undoubted authority in moving troops from India to Europe and that the rights of Parliament had not thereby been violated. Mr. Roebuck condemned the factious policy of the Opposition party as tending to embarrass the Government. Other liberal members argued on the unconstitutional procedure of the Government and said that the Opposition felt bound considering the novelty of the step to raise the discussion. The House of Commons eventually negatived the resolution by 347 against 226 votes and voted the ministerial amendment, Consols 96¾.

25*th.*—No statement has yet been made in Parliament respecting the result of Count Schouvaloff's Mission.

Constantinople, 21st May.—A riot took place to-day among the refugees who entered the Palace of Tchegeram and cheered the ex-Sultan Murad the fifth. The rioters, refusing, to disperse, were fired on by the military. The refugees have demanded of the Porte relief, which has been promised them. The statement made by the *Daily News* that General Todleben had sent an ultimatum to the Porte, demanding the evacuation of Shumla, Varna, and Batoum, is semi-officially denied from St. Pertersburgh.

24*th.*—The Russo-Turkish Commission has failed to agree as to the line of demarcation.

23*rd.*—A great fire has taken place at the Porte causing the destruction of the Turkish Ministry of Justice and of the Supreme Council of State. The Russians are still advancing without however violating the neutral zone.

St. Petersburgh 19th May.—Count Schouvaloff has started for London, and will visit Berlin on his way. Semi-official Russian journals state that the movements of the Russian troops in the vicinity of Constantinople are for reasons of health, and were never intended as a menace to the Porte, nor is it the intention of the Russians to occupy Constantinople.

Berlin, 19th May.—In consequence of the attempted assassination of the Emperor, a Bill has been brought forward in the German Federal Council for the supression of socialist prints and societies.

24*th.*—The German Parliament has rejected the Bill against socialism which was introduced in consequence of the attempted assassination of the Emperor.

The Contingent.—Sir S. Northcote in the House of Commons said none of the Indian Revenue would be devoted to the expenses of the transport of the Indian contingent.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on *Saturday* the 1*st June* next, at 4 P. M.

Subject: Ozone and Atmospheric Air.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MAY 27, 1878.

ENGLISH OPINION ON THE INDIAN CONTINGENT.

ENGLISH opinion as usual is divided on the subject of calling out Indian troops to fight Russia in Europe. Some journals are of opinion that the step taken by the Ministry is perfectly legitimate, while others question its wisdom and good policy. The *Times* says: "The question of the employment of native Indian soldiers for any war in Europe in which this country may be engaged, is one on which very different opinions have been expressed. Whether such employment is legitimate and whether it is wise have been almost equally doubted. Now, as to its legitimacy at the present moment there is hardly, we venture to think, any fair room for doubt at all. Russia is the only enemy with which we may have to try conclusions, and Russia is not by any means an exclusively European Power. The indignation with which Germans in 1870 heard of the presence of the Turcos in the French armies was natural enough, and we cannot say that it was uncalled-for. The notion that Germany was to be conquered and overrun, and, as the French asserted, civilised, by such barbarous auxiliaries was a little shocking even outside Germany. But the Russian empire, which is partly European and partly Asiatic, and which draws its soldiers from all quarters without distinction, can have no reason to complain if it is met in the field by troops of mixed nationalities. If we are ever driven to engage in war with Russia it will be for strictly Imperial purposes, and for such purposes the entire resources of the empire may very justly be turned to account. The native Indian army is at least equal in discipline to the Russian army, and might be as well trusted to be kept in hand. We may add, too, that the idea of pitting Indians against Russians did not come first from either India or England. The threat of a Russian invasion of India has been more than once uttered. India indeed has been counted upon as the point at which England, is most likely to be found vulnerable. Why, it may fairly be asked, should Russia be allowed a monopoly in this respect? The prospect of an Indian invasion of Russia is at least as likely to be realised as the other is, and it is justified in advance by language which Russians have allowed themselves to indulge in very freely." The *Standard* remarks: "It will probably occur to many persons as a significant circumstance that, while the more ignorant and romantic organs of the Russian press are talking wildly of a

Russian invasion of India in the event of hostilities occuring between that country and England the English Government does not hesitate to transfer troops from the great dependency thus amusingly threatened, thousands of miles away from the scene where they would be wanted,if the braggarts of Moscow were serious politicians. The Ministry, no doubt, have excellent reasons for the steps they have taken; and it must have been contemplated by them for some time. They would be wanting in their duty to the empire if they left anything to chance upon the slipperry ground they are at present compelled to traverse." On the other hand the *Spectator* strongly argues against the measure. "It smacks too much of the policy of decadent Rome," says this journal "her reliance upon mercenary auxiliaries, to supplement throughout the Empire the overtaxed and over-burdened energies of her own people. In asking the Sepoys to fight for them in a quarrel outside Asia Englishmen are putting off upon subject races a duty which, if it is obligatory, they ought to perform themselves, and rendering themselves in no small degree dependent upon their own subjects. They are quadrupling the area of danger from the next insurrection, and subordinating their own free control of the policy of the Empire to an opinion which is not theirs, which they cannot guide, and which influenced by ideas some of which they would unhesitatingly pronounce immoral. They are not, as Russians will probably say, calling in barbarians to kill civilised men—for a Rajput is at least as civilized as a Cossack—but they are calling in Asia to repress Europe, that is, arming the civilisation which has no future to beat down the civilisation which progresses. There is something in calling in Nepaulese Hindoos to repress Christians on behalf of Mossulmans which revolts the instinct of the West, and justly, for though the Ghoorka is not to blame for his creed, it is on the difference of the creed that the hope of the future of the West is based." So the *Spectator* bases its objection to the policy of the Government on the ground of race, religion, and civilization. We are surprised that a writer, who has always advocated the claims of India as an integral part of the British empire, should have taken exception to a measure, the object of which is to shew to the civilized world that the interests of England and India are identical. The enthusiasm, with which the Indian troops have responded to the call of duty, ought to be a matter of national pride for Englishmen. It is a proof positive of the loyal attachment of the Native Army to the British Crown. Surely they would not have so readily offered their lives in a foreign country for the sake of England, if they did not cherish a feeling far higher and purer than that of the mere marcenary. We do not see that the deputation of the Indian troops is a sign of the decay of England. This is not the first time the Indian Sepoy has fought for the imperial exigencies of England. He had fought before in Persia, China, Afghansthan, and Abyssinia, and if there was no objection to his services in those foreign countries, why should there be any objection to similar services in Europe? Indeed,to our mind the objection is purely sentimental. It is a foolish race-feeling to contend that Asia should not fight Europe on European soil. Is not the very existence of Turkey a standing protest against that feeling? Of course that feeling is at the root of the Russo-Turkish War. But has that feeling restrained the combatants from recruiting their respective strength from Asia? Did not Turkey fight Russia with her Asiatic soldiers? Did not Russia recruit her army from Asia? England is also an Asiatic power; why should she be considered disqualified to avail herself of her resources in India, or for the matter of that, throughout her vast empire, over which the sun never sets? Will it be objected to, if Canada, Australia or New Zealand send over their militia to fight England's battles? In point of men England with a population of 35 millions will always be at a disadvantage in coping with Russia, the population of which numbers 70 millions. But England's army extends over vast regions in different parts of the world; these regions feel deeply interested in the stability of the British empire, and why should it be denied to the subjects of Her Majesty beyond the British isles to demonstrate their loyalty? Then the *Spectator* apprehends military domination by the Government from Lord Beaconsfield's policy. The writer remarks: "Nor can we be blind, though we are aware the objection may be exaggerated, to the danger of allowing a Ministry, at its own discretion, to organise armies for European expeditions out of men whom Parliament neither organises, nor controls, nor pays till they have been sent out of India. Englishmen are certainly not prepared to live in a military Empire, and if India is to be made thus completely part of our direct dominion, and its army to be employed for all purposes, perhaps even as part of the garrison of London, they will be living in one. The reflex opinion of India will affect this country, and gradually lower the whole tone of political morality, as it begins to do already, when excited orators declare that Englishmen must fight for a despotism they know to be evil, or forty millions of Mossulmans will rebel." He is thus answered by the *Daily Telegraph*. "It is idle to describe the course pursued by the Cabinet as a sign of decay. Nor it is true, as alleged, that Nepaulese Hindoos are summoned to repress Christians. The assertion is baseless and gratuitous, for the plain object of arraying the strength of the Empire is to defend public law as well as the Empire itself. Not less unfounded is the notion that if Indian battalions and squadrons are transported beyond Egypt we shall be in imminent danger, forsooth, of "living in a Military Empire," as if the control of Parliament and the nation would be superseded because several thousands of Asiatics were brought into Eastern Europe! Perhaps the most far-fetched,not to say ridiculous,reasons produced are the arguments that the use of Indian troops will increase the English readiness to go to war, a proposition which might be sustained if the supposed readiness existed; and that the character of English recruits will be injured because they will see their officers relying on men without patriotism! Yet, as a matter of fact, English recruits, ever since the battle of Plassey, have seen examples of such reliance, The European and the native soldiers have fought side by side for more than a century in India. Persia, China, Afghanistan, Burmah; and we are not aware that "military training" has become "hopeless" in consequence. Why should the daily presence of Indian troops be useful on the plains of the Punjaub and injurious in the garrison of Malta? The question is unanswerable. The truth is that the objectors are hostile to the plan because it originated with Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet; because it has been adopted as part of the scheme of imperial defence and because it may aid the nation in resisting the aggressive designs of "holy" Russia." As for the constitutional question, it has been decided in favour of the ministry by a large majority. We will recur to this question hereafter.

A question of international law has, however, been raised by the *Examiner*. It says:

As things are, Russia would undoubtedly be entitled if she were so minded to regard the despatch of native reinforcements from India to Malta as a *casus belli*. Even without resorting to so extreme a measure as a declaration of war the Government of the Czar might easily take steps which would place us in a position of great difficulty. Egypt is still as a matter of fact as well as theory an integral portion of the Ottoman Empire. The right which we have hitherto enjoyed of sending troops across the Isthmus of Suez is secured to us by a convention with the Egyptian Government entered into with the sanction of the Porte. Our right of way is therefore conditional upon the consent of the Sultan and in the event of a war between England and Russia in which the Porte remained neutral either of the belligerents might reasonably object to the territory of a friendly Power being traversed by the armies of its enemy. At this moment the influence of Russia is necessarily supreme at Constantinople and it is quite upon the cards that Turkey may be induced to place a formal veto upon the passage of our Indian reinforcements either through the Canal or by railway from Suez to Alexandria. Acquiescence in this veto would virtually sever our communication with India for military purposes, while, if we were to ignore the authority of the Porte over Egypt, we should find ourselves at once compelled to occupy theIsthmus and to surrender the pretension that we are engaged in upholding the Treaty of Paris. The contingency to which we allude is so obvious a one that it is difficult to believe our Ministers could have overlooked the possibility of its occurrence. But if they take it into account they must be prepared to embark on a far wider and more comprehensive policy than any upon which they have as yet consulted the country. Altogether the outlook seems to us less hopeful than ever.—

The *Scotsman* takes the same view:

If we can use native troops against Russia we might also use them against Italy or France or any other European Power with which we might quarrel. Is it likely that they will lose sight of this? They will see too that such troops to be effective would have to be brought through the Suez Canal and it would not be wonderful it they asked whether this is or ought to be permissible The canal is not neutralised. It is part of the territory of the Sultan. If therefore we bring native troops through the Canal we shall either break the neutrality of the Sultan or have him for an ally. Russia may be expected to ask questions on this point. But apart from the European questions that may be raised there is an Indian question. If a proposal to bring native troops through the Canal should lead to a declaration by Europe that such a course is intolerable there may be a restriction upon the passing of any troops and that might seriously endanger our hold on India in case of a sudden outbreak there. It may be said that the remedy is to take Egypt. That however is only to raise another European question probably more terrible than any that has been seen in modern times. In short the action of the Government unnecessary in itself is dangerous because it is a challenge to war and because it raises questions which wise statesmen would never have dreamed of stirring up. In pushing their action further if war should ensue the responsibility of the loss and slaughter and ruin that will be caused must be upon their shoulders.

But when the Indian Mahomedans volunteered for service in Turkey, and they passed the Suez Canal, no such objection was taken. When English soldiers were sent over to India to suppress the Sepoy Mutiny no objection was taken. Will a similar objection be allowed, if the scene of war between England and Russia be transferred from Europe to Asia? Why should then there be a complaint now against the use of the Suez Canal for the transport of Indian troops? Surely Lord Beaconsfield would not have had recourse to this measure, if he had not felt his ground sure. We confess we are surprised that there should be any portion of the English public opposed to this clever move of Lord Beaconsfield. His object is the maintenance of the national prestige, and the British nation ought to feel thankful to him.

THE VALUE OF INDIA TO ENGLAND.

ENGLAND has suddenly awakened to a sense of the value of India to her. In a military point of view India has always been of rare value to England. India has been the best school for the English army,the best training ground for her captains and commanders, her reserve strength in times of pressure for armed men abroad. It was India, which trained up the Iron Duke, who conquered Napolean, and the Napier of Magdala, to whom all the eyes of the British Isles were turned on the first rumour of a war with Russia. As the Duke of Argyll, whilst Secretary of State for India, in an official letter to the War Office, wrote: "It is well known that India offers the best if not indeed the only, training ground for the British army in time of European peace; that as Indian pay and allowances are much higher than those given to the army either at home or when employed elsewhere abroad, Indian service is highly popular in the army, and that in consequence of the liberal treatment which, up to the present time, the Government of that country has been enabled to bestow upon the officers and men, it has contributed one great inducement to members of both classes to enter the British army; and, moreover, that under the new army organisation by which Her Majesty's Government hope to augment the military power of the country, and to save the expense of pensions by the introduction of a short service system and the establishment of a reserve, a very large, and certainly not the least valuable, portion of that reserve will consist of men whose entire military training and experience will have been acquired at the expense of the people of India." Then again England has always drawn upon the India army to fight her battles in other parts of the British Em-

pire. But she now finds a new value of India in her military resources. She finds herself in conflict with Russia, and as the numerical strength of her home army is not large, she has justly called out her reserve forces from India. As the Calcutta Correspondent of the *Times* says: "The Indian press has little doubt but that, if England so willed it, the native military force might in a comparatively short time be recruited up to the strength of a million. If fully and efficiently officered it would in fighting qualities be second only to an army of English soldiers, while in respect of endurance and power of bearing privations it would be second to no military force in the world. An auxiliary army raised in India, where for all practical purposes our resources are limitless, would give England a military preponderance in almost any European war in which she engaged." This is perfectly true. Indian resources are boundless, and if England knows how to utilize them, she need fear none. Accordingly, the writer advocates the re-organization of the Indian army. He remarks: "The question of Indian army reform has been agitated for years, and the longer a solution of the problem is delayed the more complicated and difficult it will grow. It must be borne in mind that not only does the efficiency of the army in war depend on the solution of this problem, but that the Government can never hope to rule India except by absolute Imperialism until the army shall have been so reorganized that loyalty shall be guaranteed beyond the reach of suspicion. To effect this some very radical changes must be made in the system hitherto practised, which is to leave the command of companies to native officers subject only to the regimental supervision of English officers, native officers are commissioned and formally gazetted, the intention being to educate a skilled class of native commissioned regimental officers who would serve as substitutes for English officers." The writer, however, condemns this policy as utterly fatuous. He wishes to keep the Native army entirely under English influence. The *Times* itself is, however, more moderate. It says: "At present native officers are placed at the head of companies, although they are subject to the control of European superiors. Such a system certainly seems good if we may judge it by European standards. It is desirable to make the military service liked by the natives, and there could be few better ways of doing this than by opening at least the inferior places of command to men of their own race. If a clever Hindoo or Mahomedan can gain one of those places, the whole service must be so far ennobled in the eyes of his own people. It is also desirable to remove all needless badges of domination from our system of rule. We have acted on that principle by opening the civil service to natives; and their quick brains have enabled crowds of them to become no despicable rivals to cultivated Europeans in public competitions for posts in that line of Indian duty. But a good deal has to be said on the other side. Even the civil service has not gained in every respect from the enlistment of Asiatic qualities, and very strong objections are made to the native officers of the army. It is urged that the Mutiny might have had a different result if the Sepoys had possessed officers of their own race. The rebellious regiments would then, it is said, have held together, instead of falling to pieces as they did when they lost the guidance of their European leaders. It is a rash experiment, many people think, to train Hindu or Mahomedan officers, because they must, more or less, be out of sympathy with England, and have such means as no Englishman can possess of gaining a secret as well as profound influence over their men." But the multiplication of European officers will not be a guarantee of British influence. How many British officers were there when Clive at the head of the Sepoys wrested Bengal from Serajood-owla? The best security of the British Empire in the East is the unification of the British and Indian interests, and that object cannot be effected unless there be a fusion of the races in the civil and military administration of the country. India cannot afford the cost of a stupendous English machinery of administration. As the *Times* says, "the difficulty of our task has been increased by the very complexity of the civilization which we have taken to India. It is not cheap; it cannot be cheap. And all reforms, whether civil or military, resolve themselves in India into questions of money. It is tolerably clear that it would be impossible to make such changes as are suggested in the army without an addition to the expenditure. Schemes of military reform may, therefore, be profitably connected with discussions of finance." Quite so. India is poor and needs a cheap agency, and the indigenous agency properly regulated is therefore the cheapest and best.

THE FAMINE COMMISSION.

THE Government of India has recorded a remarkable Resolution laying down instructions for the guidance of the Famine Commission as to the scope and object of their enquiries. It supplements the despatch of the Secretary of State on the subject in a broad and statesmanlike spirit. As the present Resolution is worded, the enquiry, it would seem, would not be confined to the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay. The Government of India says, "it will not be possible for the Commission, when inquiring into the best system of famine administration, to abstain altogether from examining and criticising those systems which have been in force in different provinces during the recent and previous famines, nor is it the desire of the Government of India to draw any inflexible line limiting the discretion of the Commission in this direction; but any such inquiry should be made subservient to the essential object of devising a sound system for the future. The existence of any peculiarities in general administrative system of particular provinces, which may have tended either to asist or retard the action of Government in the struggle with famine, should not be lost sight of, and will indeed form a very material element in coming to a conclusion on this part of the inquiry; for there can be no doubt that a crisis such as that of the past year brings into marked prominence the strong and weak points of administrative systems in a way which ordinary years would fail to do." As to famine mortality the whole truth will never be known. But the Government of India justly remarks: "It is probable, however, that fairly trustworthy information may be obtained as to the different classes of population which have suffered most—whether the early stages of a famine affect certain classes more or less severely than its later stages—whether the loss of life has been greater among males or females, among adults or children—to what extent the birth-rate has been affected—and how far local influences, peculiarities of administration, or tenure, climate, soil, water, density of population, systems of cultivation, &c., have tended to mitigate, or intensify, the inevitable effects of scarcity." With regard to the enquiry into the ryotwari system of Madras, the Government of India gives the Commission a wider scope than the Secretary of State did originally allow. Thus it says: "Indeed, the Commission can scarcely make their enquiry complete without taking into consideration the comparative power of the agricultural population in different provinces to resist the effects of drought; and from this question it is manifestly impossible to exclude altogether the element of comparative wealth, and the apparent relation of well-being to the character of the tenure: but, save in their direct bearing on the causes and effects of famine, the attention of the Commission need not be devoted to a discussion of the different systems of land tenure." In regard to the system of relief the Government of India says, "it will be for the Commission to enquire what lessons, in their opinion, the experience of the past year conveys; whether in any respects it modifies the principles above indicated: and, if small works within easy reach of the population are admissible in any circumstances, at what period, and under what conditions they may be safely accepted as part of the relief-system." As for the agency for carrying on relief works the Government would not absolutely rely upon the Public Works Department. It justly remarks: "Works conducted under their agency are not free from the danger of providing insufficiently for those who are feeble or unable to give a fair outturn of labour. District officers, without professional training, do not ordinarily possess the above qualifications in the same degree, and are commonly occupied with other duties. On the other hand, it is peculiarly the province of district officers to make arrangements for receiving applicants, and admitting them to relief, for classifying them according to their strength and capacity for labour, for organising them into gangs, and thus encouraging members of the same village to keep together. The Commission should collect the results of the experience obtained in different parts of the country under varying conditions, and should make recommendations as to the class of relief works which may be opened in time of scarcity or famine; as to the best agency for prosecuting relief works; as to the steps required for making such agency available; and as to the exact procedure and precautions to be taken on each class of work." In discussing what ought to be the nature of relief works the Government of India practically acknowledges its own weakness. It says, "it is obvious that projects for works of public utility cannot be prepared for execution on the spur of the moment when famine is actually in the land. After the Orissa famine of 1866, the Government of India directed each Local Government to prepare, in sufficient detail, projects for famine relief works, which could be scrutinised and approved by the Supreme Government, and then kept ready for immediate prosecution when the necessity might arise. Similar orders were given by Lord Nothbrook's Government after the famine of 1874, but led to no result of practical importance. It will be the business of the Commission to enquire into this subject and to consider what course is most likely to be suitable for adoption in this respect." But who knows that what the Commission may recommend may not after all prove abortive? With regard to the supply of food the Government of India says, "to throw light on this subject, it will be very desirable that a comparison should be instituted between the systems adopted in different famines; to explain why non-interference by Government which is believed to have failed in Orissa, succeeded in Madras and Bombay; and generally to place the principles which should guide the action of Government, on a sound and substantial basis, so as to preclude the necessity of reconsidering the whole question on every occasion of a future famine. The Commission will have specially to consider whether there are still any provinces, or districts, which are so isolated, and so deficient in means of communication, and in the ordinary facilities of trade, as to make it likely that the direct interposition of Government may be requisite to secure for them an adequate food-supply in the case of future famine, and how that interposition can be effected with least injury to the ordinary course of trade. In such a case, the Commission will advise the Government whether or not, a sufficient remedy may be obtained by works designed to open out such districts, and to connect them with the main lines of communication of the country." And lastly the question of the quantity of food is referred to. The Government then invites the Commission to enquire into the efficacy of irrigation works and railways as remedial measures. It says: "The Government of India would wish the Commission to place on record their views as to the protection afforded by existing works in various provinces, and the possibility and expediency of extending, within the limits prescribed by financial and other considerations, the area under irrigation of permanent works, and also as the means of improving and rendering safer, the works of the less important class, and of adding to their number." The question of the influence which the denudation of forests may have upon the rain-fall, and on the subsequent retention of the rain water in the soil, and its effects on the permanence of springs or flowing streams, will engage the consideration of the Commission, who are directed to make necessary reference to the Revenue, Agricultural, and Commerce Department for any papers bearing on the subject. The possibility of compelling the proper maintenance of local works of irrigation by the persons interested, has been suggested as a fit

subject for the attention of the Commission ; and also the effect that alleged prescriptive rights in the waters of rivers may have in preventing the extension of irrigation. There is one point in the Resolution of Government, which may well alarm the public, because it threatens increased taxation. Thus the Government of India,says, "to meet the demands upon the Imperial fund arising from the very heavy expenditure, which the experience of recent famines shows to be unavoidable when such calamities occur, special taxation has been imposed upon the country, by aid of which the Government hopes to discharge these liabilities in the future, without adding to the permanent burdens on the revenues. It will naturally fall within the scope of the Commission's inquiry to make suggestions for facilitating the execution of the policy, and for enforcing and extending the responsibility of local Governments for preventing, and for relieving, distress within their respective provinces." Again: "No doubt it would be desirable, in the interests of the people themselves, and in order to obviate fraud and pauperisation, if Municipalities and rural communities could be made responsible for the relief and maintenance of their own poor in times of famine. The Government of India recognises the extreme difficulty that there must be in accomplishing any such result, but leaves the consideration of this question to the discretion of the Commission." If the Government means the administration of relief, we have no objection to the proposal, but if it means the imposition of financial responsibility upon the Municipalities, we must protest against the policy.

The following gentlemen constitute the Commission :

President :

Lieutenant-General R, Strachey, R. E., C.S.I., F.R.S.

Members :

The Hon'ble H. S. Cunningham, Judge of the High Court, Calcutta.

Mr. J. Caird, C.B., Member of the English Enclosure and Copyhold Commission.

Mr. G. A. Ballard, Madras Civil Service.

Mr. G. H. M. Batten, Bengal Civil Service.

Mr. J B. Peile, Bombay Civil Service.

Mr. Rangacharul, Controller of His Highness the Maharajah's Household, Mysore.

Mr. Mahadev Wasudev, Barve Karbaree of the Kolhapore State.

Secretary :

Mr. C. A. Elliott, Bengal Civil Service.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the scope of the Commission's enquiry is general, and yet Bengal is unrepresented in it, while the other provinces have representatives in it. There ought to be at least one official and one native representative of Bengal in the Commission.

FOREST RIGHTS.

IF ANY one wishes to compare the spirit of modern legislation in India with that in the past, let him read the Bengal Public Works Cess Act and the Bombay Abkari Act. We have, we fear, discussed the first *ad nauseum* ; we propose to say a few words on the second. There are certain native gentlemen of Bombay, who held several villages under certain indentures, executed by the Honorable the late East India Company, by which the proprietory rights in those villages were vested in them. We give the following clauses from the Indentures :

"They, the United Company, have granted, bargained, sold, alienated released, and confirmed by these presents. do grant, bargain, sell alienate, release, and confirm into the said Cursetjee Ardaseer and Jehangeer Ardaseer in their exclusive right in their actual possession and occupation, all those said villages and pieces and parcels of land."

"That for and notwithstanding any right, title or interest which they the said United Company have or claim of taxing and assessing certain Brab and other trees on the Island of Salsette, the said Cursetjee Ardaseer and Jehangeer Ardaseer, their heirs and assigns shall and may have, hold and enjoy all and singular the Brab and other trees and all other the produce of any kind whatsoever now growing or which may be hereafter grown or produced on the said pieces and parcels of land, hereditaments and premises hereby granted and released or intended so to be free and clear of and without being subject to any taxation or assessment whatsoever."

It will be thus seen that these proprietors were vested with the full right to use and otherwise appropriate the raw produce of the Brab and other trees growing on their properties, and they had all along enjoyed these rights without any interference on the part of the British Government. The spirit in which the Government in past days used to respect the rights of the people will be seen from the following letter of the Bombay Government :

Territorial Department—Revenue.

To

SORABJEE JEHANGEER ARDASEER, HORMUSJEE JEHANGEER ARDASEER, AND DADABHOY JEHANGEER ARDASEER.

GENTLEMEN, In reply to your letter dated the 13th ultimo, complaining of certain restrictions which have been placed by the Collector of Tanna upon the removal by you of the raw produce of the Palm trees growing on your estate on Salsettee, I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to inform you that your representation having been referred to that officer, it appears from his report that the Clause in the Abkharee Farmer's lease, complained of in your 2nd para., has now been withdrawn, it having been introduced by mistake, and never having been acted on. The term "Neera," made use of in the same clause, was intended to apply to the unfermented juice, which only you are entitled to dispose of without becoming liable to the Excise laws.

2. With regard to the Clause in the Abkharee Farmer's lease, complained of in your 3rd para., I am desired to observe that the price at which the fermented juice is sold to the Farmer is always fixed by the Collector, and that you are subject to this as well as all other Excise Regulations. There is, however, nothing to prevent you from making profit on the sale of the produce of such of the Trees on your estate as are at your disposal (*i.e.* those which are not held on a Selotree tenure), by keeping them in your own hands, instead of letting them out to Bhundarees at a fixed rent as you do at present.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) R. K. PRINGLE,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 25th May, 1847.

As to the nature of the right of the proprietors under notice the following opinion of the then Advocate General of Bombay ought to be conclusive :

To

WILLIAM NEWNHAM, ESQ.,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Simson's letter of the 20th ultimo, requesting my opinion whether Government possess the right to levy a tax on Brab and Date trees growing on the several estates granted to individuals on the Island of Salsette, as mentioned in Regulation 1 of 1808.

On perusing the Regulation, I find that the revenue alluded to arises from the liquor distilled from the Toddy trees, &c., and wherever the liquor extracted from the trees, which is undoubtedly the raw material, is distilled, I am of opinion that the revenue may be collected, but the several estates in question are defined in the Regulation as being exempted from any claims of the Honourable Company on the Brab or other trees growing within the aforesaid limits, and I think that no tax can be collected for drawing toddy from such trees. The spirit is the manufacture to be taxed, and not the juice of the trees.

The nearest analogy which I can think of at present, is the case of barley raised on a grant of the Crown in England: It is subject to the Malt Tax if it be converted into malt, but not otherwise. The grower of the barley cannot make it into Malt without subjecting it to the tax, no more than the maltster to whom they sell it ; but as long as it remains barley it is not subject to taxation ; the Malt Tax is not on the barley, but only on malt.

So in the case of the Brab trees, they belong to the owners of the soil ; not merely their leaves and timbers, but their fruit and juice ; and I conceive the tax to be on the spirit which is distilled from the juices, and not on the juice itself. The owner of the land may drink his toddy or sell his toddy without being subject to any tax, as in England the farmer may either eat his barley or sell his barleyto the maltster or other person without being subject to the Malt Tax.

It is the distiller here and the maltster there who are taxed, and not the torretenant, or immediate occupier of the soil, or owner of the material.

I have the honour to be, &c.,
(Signed) H. G. MACKLIN,
Advocate General.

But wiser spirits have now sprung up. The present Advocate General holds that the proprietors have no rights of the kind they lay claim to, and the Bombay Legislative Council has passed a Bill, not only depriving them of their right to dispose of, in its unfermented state, the toddy produced from the trees on their estates, but also to make them responsible for the acts of persons (over whom they have no control) to whom the Government may choose to issue licenses for drawing toddy from trees situated in their villages. The proprietors have submitted a petition to the Viceroy, in which they thus set forth their grievances :

Adverting to the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill in question, stating that the Committee is advised that no rights of the Landholders owning property in the Salsette Talooka of the Tanna District, which they possess under their grants, are prejudicially affected by the provisions of the Bill, your Petitioners beg to observe that, from whatever quarter such advice might have emanated, it is not consistent with fact. In the Deeds of Conveyance appertaining to your Petitioners' villages, the right to the Brab and other trees, and the produce thereof, is granted to your Petitioners free from any taxation or assessment whatsoever. In the rules embodied in the said Act, it is stated that no Toddy shall be drawn from any tree without License, no Toddy shall be sold without a License, and that no owner of any Toddy-producing tree and no person having a right to the Juice of any such tree shall sell Toddy except under License. Licenses cannot be obtained without paying Fee or additional Tax, and therefore it remains for your Excelleney to decide whether or not the above sections are calculated to affect your Petitioners' rights to the Toddy drawn from the trees in their respective villages in its unformented state. In the Deeds connected with seme of the villages, the rights of the proprietors to tha juice or Toddy in its unfermented state may not have been defined in the same form as they are in the Deed, by virtue of which the owner of the village of Poway holds that Estate, but it is not fair to infer from this that your Excellency's Petitioners have no right to the raw produce of their Brab trees. In support of their contention that the right of your Petitioners to the raw produce of Brab and other trees was never hitherto questioned, and is enjoyed by them without molestation or interruption, your Petitioners beg respectfully to state that in 1864 the Collector of Tanna wanted to purchase the right of the unfermented juice of Brab trees in the villages Dyser, &c., but the Government declined to accede to the proposal. —*Vide* copy of the letter from the Collector of Tanna to Mr. Hormusjee Jehangeer, hereunto annexed, marked D. If your Petitioners had no right to the juice of their trees, the exeutive officer of Government would never have proposed to purchase that right, and permitted the proprietors of these villages to enjoy that right when the villages were made over to them.

It is urged by the supporters of the Bill that by the Bombay Municipal Act the owners of land and houses are made responsible for the occupier's rate, and that on the same principle the owners of the Brab trees ought to be held responsible for the duty payable to Government from the persons holding Licenses for drawing Toddy from such trees. Your Excellency's Petitioners beg to state that there is no analogy between the occupiers of houses and the drawers of Toddy. The former generally are inhabitants of Bombay possess some moveable property, and have employment in Bombay ; so even if they vacate one house, they must rent another, and there is no difficulty to the owners in tracing them out. The latter, on the other hand, are generally inhabitants of the Concan, or Goa, and whenever they find that they are unable to pay the rent of trees to the owners and the duty to the Government, they proceed to Goa or the Concan, and the owners of the trees are unable to recover from them the rent of the trees. To put an extreme case, it might happen through no fault of the proprietors, that after the License-holder has drawn and sold the Toddy, he might be unable to pay to the proprietor the rent for the trees, or to the Government the fixed duty, in which case the proprietors would, in addition to losing their rent and the Toddy, have to pay the duty themselves.

A benevolent Government ought not to introduce laws calculated to deprive Her Majesty's subjects of their rights to Toddy, because the present Advocate General is of opinion that your Petitioner's claims are not legal, when a former Advocate General, in the year 1819, has declared to the contrary.

Now, what does all this shew. For nearly three quarters of a century these proprietors have enjoyed certain rights, which they had derived under a solemn deed from the East India Company, but the Government of the Crown has extinguished those rights by a simple stroke of the pen. Under the law of prescription these rights could not have been taken away, but the spirit of modern legislation seems to be above tradition, law, and equity. And when the people complain of such arbitrary and capricious legislation, they are charged with sedition. Need we add that when the people are deprived of what they have been taught to believe to be their just rights, they cannot help crying.

POLICE OPPRESSION.

WE lately noticed the case of a mooktear of Beerbhoom, who was sat upon by the District Superintendent of Police of that district, for speaking ill of his Police in the discharge of his professional duties, which came under the notice of the Lieutenant Governor, who strongly stigmatized the conduct of the District Superintendent. Here is another case, in which the Beerbhoom Police come out in all their glory. We will not whet the curiosity of the reader by a preface, but introduce him at once to the vivid picture, which the judgment of the Sessions Judge of Beerbhoom presents. We give the judgment below :

Criminal appeal No. 3 of 1878 From the order of Baboo Dwarkanath Sen Deputy Magistrate of Beerbhoom Dated 15th February 1878.

Danish Mohamed.—appellant.

The appellant has been convicted of an offence punishable under Section 500 I. P. C. and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 60.

"The Statement made use of runs thus. The case brought by Moina Maghin is false. The Court Inspector has been paying the expences of the prosecution and has caused Moina Maghin to bring the charge out of ill feeling towards him (accused). The Court Inspector has had the complainant and her witnesses kept at his office and has done his best to bring him (accused) into trouble.

The question is whether the appellant in making such statement acted bonafide and in self defence.—

To understand the case more properly it has become necessary to travel somewhat out of the cause of this particular case and event to some previous proceedings that have been taken against the appellant. The first case in point occurred in October last.—A relation of the Court Inspector wanted to kill a goat in the Premises of the appellant a proceeding to which the appellant's wife objected and the parties came towards.—The Court Inspector was some how mixed up in the quarrel for he is said to have been abused. The result of this was that counter criminal harges were brought against the appellant's wife Dayamaye

fined and the Court Insqector's relation acquitted. In appeal the Magistrate who considered that the charges had their origin in the "imprudent" request made by the Court Inspector's relation and who believed that that relation was as guilty as the appellant's wife had been, set aside the conviction. The Magistrate's remarks in this case are very pertinent and his strictness not a whit too severe,

Not two days after these cases had been instituted we find the appellant brought up for the first time in his life for a breach of municipal rules and fined 4 anas. There was no appeal against this order.

A month afterwards a serious charge of kidnapping was brought against the appellant and his wife at the Sooty *Thanah* and although the informant (a woman) professed to come forward on the mere diction of another person and though on search being made none of the Kidnapped parties were found with the accused, the Police considered the charge proved and arrested the appellant and his wife.

Both on the occasion of the charge being made and of the accused being apprehended the Court Inspector was at the *Thanah* and though ordinarily speaking this coincidence might be considered of little moment, it has its significance when viewed in the light of the Court Inspector's subsequent conduct.

It was when this case of Kidnapping was taken up for trial by the Deputy Magistrate Baboo Dwarkanath Sen that the Court Inspector first publicly and actually interfered. He then went up with a verbal request to have the trial postponed in order that the Magistrate might try it. He admitted that he had received no orders from the Magistrate but acted on a verbal order of the District Superintendent.

It is a pity that any notice was paid to a request made in that fashion. The Deputy Magistrate had full power to try the case himself he had been left in charge of the Station and he had received no instructions from the Magistrate to send such cases to him. It is the more to be regretted that the request was complied with for the result was that the accused were most unnecessarily kept in Hajut for 3 days. After leaving the case for the Magistrate to try, the Deputy Magistrate apparently objected to interfere in the matter of accepting bail and refused to entertain the prayer of the accused in regard thereto; and it was not till 3 days afterwards that they got out of Hajut on bail.

If it was a known fact that all such cases were going to be tried by the Magistrate himself, I must say that I think it was odd that the Deputy Magistrate was allowed to take it up at all and I can't see why the papers were not at the outset, sent to Magistrate. Had this been done the necessity for sending the accused to Hajut would in all probability never have arisen.

It has been urged however and not without some reason, I admit that the Court Inspector's object in delaying to inform the Deputy Magistrate of the arrangement entered into by the Magistrate and District Sperintendent in regard to all such cases was to have the accused incarcerated in the jail. If this was so the Court Inspector, as has been shown, succeeded very well. When the papers of the case were examined by the Magistrate he at once saw that no charge of kidnapping would stand, and without going further into the matter sent the case to Baboo Janokeenath to be tried under the Provisions of the Emigration act. The accused were at the same time let out on bail.

The case under the Emigration act was not taken up for several days during which the informant and her witness were with the Police. Having at first nothing to eat and their patience being apparently exhausted with waiting they attempted to get away on two different occasions, but were brought back by the Police. After this food was supplied to them by the Police gratis.

The Court Inspector did petition the authorities for their diet expences but he does not appear to have pressed the matter for no public money was expended-odd to relate the petition itself is not now forthcoming.

During the time these witnesses were kept by the Police they were confronted more than once with the Court Inspector who took care to tell them that if they spoke carrectly they would be released a warning which was not likely to be lost on the witnesses and one which was very suggestive of what the Court Inspector desired. Again two mooktears were appointed to prosecute the case, but it is shown that these *sonthals* neither appointed them nor had money to pay for their services.

Indeed so manifestly undue an interest did this Court Inspector display in connection with this case that one of his friends (an Amlah of the Magistrate's Court) advised him to refrain from interfering. Eventually the case was tried and the accused were convicted. The conviction was however set aside by the officiating Magistrate Mr. Savage in appeal. It was while defending the above case that the appellant filed the statement to which exception has been taken; and which forms the basis of the defamation case instituted by the Court Inspector. The Deputy Magistrate seems to admit that the Court Inspector may have done nearly all that he is accused of doing and considered, that the appellant may have had grounds for his accusation but he entered in to the questions of degree of good faith and considers that the appellants did not act with sufficient good faith, I hold a contrary view altogether. The whole facts read more like a romance in which the unfortunate appellant figures as the victim to police machinations. I cannot understand how the witnesses to the case instituted under the Emigration Act were allowed to be detained more like prisoners, by the Police for so many days before being examined. They ought not to have been left under any *restraint* whatsoever and if they could not have been safely allowed to remain at large they ought to have been examined without delay. Orders on the subject should have been passed by the Deputy Magistrate and the Court Inspector ought to have seught some orders for his own guidance.

If we turn to the statement made by the appellant in the above case we shall find that the only ones which have not been supported by the direct evidence are those which are the natural and legitimate inferences arising out of the reprehensible conduct of the Court Inspector, and I consider that there was ample excuse, if not absolute justification for such inferences, I consider therefore that the conviction on the charge of defamation is bad on the facts. It is equally bad in law. The Deputy Magistrate in trying the case seems to have lost sight of the fact that the appellant did not come forward as a complainant accusing the Court Inspector of corrupt conduct. He was in the dock defending a charge for his own protection, he made certain statements of facts from which he made certain deductions. He proved those facts and his deductions clearly made in good faith he was consequently protected by law against such a charge as the Court Inspector brought against him.

For the above reasons I reverse the order of the Lower Court and order that the fine if paid be remitted. A copy of this judgement will be forwarded to the Magistrate for I consider that some notice should be taken of the conduct of the Court Inspector.

(SD.) S H. C. TAYLER.
Sessions Judge.

The 11th March 1878.

There must be something rotten in the state of Beerbhoom, when such cases of oppression are possible. The Police officer is by far the most important personage in the Mofusil, and woe betide the man, who provokes his ire! The tale which the above judgment tells is sickening enough. We should like to know whether the conduct of the Police as depicted in the judgment of the Sessions Judge has been brought to the notice of Government. Mr. Eden is keenly sensitive to the pranks of the Police, and we make no doubt that he will take sharp notice of the conduct of the Beerbhoom Police.

THE RECLAMATION OF THE HOOGHLY RIVERS.

MR. F. H. PELEW, the energetic Magistrate and Collector of Hooghly, has made to Government an interesting report on the river system of Hooghly. We may briefly describe it following his words as closely as possible. The river Damoodar after flowing for several hundred miles in a remarkably straight course to the E. S. E. as if to join the Hooghly near Noaserai, suddenly turns to the right, as if seeking to avoid the junction, and flows nearly due south only however to join that river where it turns westward below Calcutta. The point at which this great bend of the Damoodar takes place is near a village called Pulla, some 14 miles E. S. E. of Burdwan and at the bend may be traced the remains of a watercourse, which pursuing a course bending from E. S. E. to S. E. enters the Hooghly district under the name of the Kantool Nuddee. Eight or nine miles lower down the course of the Damoodar at a place called Salimabad is a broad though shallow effluent channel. This water-course leaves the Damoodar at right angles, but soon bends to the South-East and grows rapidly narrower and deeper. It enters the Hooghly district at a place called Jaroor and flows first south for about 12 miles then East for about 10 miles. Then at a place called Gopalnagor it turns to the N. E. and passing through some low embanked country as far as Baltipi, turns to the N. N. E. and runs parallel to and at a distance of 3 miles from the Railway to near Mugra Station, where it crosses the line and enters the Hooghly at Noaserai. Its whole course is some thing over 50 miles and it is known by the name of the Kana Nuddee. The Kantool river, the origin of which has been already described, flows, like the Kana Nuddee, first Southwards and then Eastwards and after a course of over 30 miles enters the Kana Nuddee where that river has begun to bend Northwards at a point situated between Gopalnagur and Baltipi. Between the Kantool and the Kana Nuddee in a swamp called the Bijlee Jalla, formerly fed from the over-flow of the Kana Nuddee, rises a river called the Gheea which after a S. W. course of about 10 miles joins the Kantool and gives the lower course of that river its own name. South of this swamp and near the town and Police Station of Dhanyakhalee two river channels, the silted up beds of which are easily traceable to a junction with the Kana Nuddee at Khanpur and Kamalpur respectively, take their rise, and, joining together at Futtehpore, become the Jhoolka Nuddee which, after a S. westerly course of 12 miles, enters the united Kantool and Gheea at Bamanbheree. Between the Kana Nuddee and the Damoodar and close to the head of the former at Salimabad a channel called the Kana Damoodar takes its rise. It was once apparently an effluent from tho Kana Nuddee. It flows nearly parallel to the Damoodar but at Pulgatchea in the Howrah district divides into 2 branches, one of which enters the Damoodar at Moheshraka and the other the Hooghly near Oolabarya. Its course is about 50 miles. Near Balgarree on the Kana Damoodar, about 16 miles from its head and just where the course of the Kana Nuddee and Kana Damoodar begin to diverge is another channel called the Kowseekee. This flows by Huripal and divides there into two channels one of which cannot now be traced but the other flows Southward by Mondolika and is merged in the Rajapoor swamp in the Howrah district, after a course of nearly 20 miles. Near Gopalnagar on the Kana Nuddee commences yet another channel called the Matya Khall which flows south for about 12 miles into the same great swamp. Another silted up river, once of more importance than all of these, must now be mentioned. The Saraswati, leaving the Hooghly at Tribeni, pursues a winding course to the south and rejoins that river at Sakrail, but there are traces of a former course which took it to Fort Gloucester. The whole of this course is not less than 80 miles, the present course to Saukrail is not less than 60 miles long. With the exception of the Kantul and Gheea all these rivers have or had communication with the Kana Nuddee and received their water from that river, which again was supplied by the Damoodar. Starting from one point Salimabad just outside the N. Western border of the Hooghly district they radiate from thence like a fan over all its central portion, which in fact forms an old delta of the Damoodar, elevated at the apex, sloping towards the periphery and impinging on the vast delta of the Ganges at its western edge.

Such is the river system of Hooghly. Most of these rivers have silted up. As Mr. Pellew says, some are shallow and some deep, in some shallows and pools alternate. In the height of the rainy season a sluggish stream is found in the most important rivers of the district such as the Kana Nuddee and the Kantool, but this water is derived solely from the local rainfall and the overflow of swamps. At other times of the year they all present a succession of stagnant, fetid pools of which the water and bed are alike contaminated by the products of fermentation. To the stoppage of these river channels, which has necessarily affected the drainage of the villages bordering upon them, Mr. Pellew inferentially traces the epidemic fever, the ravages of which he thus graphically describes:

"To talk of decimation is seriously below the truth as applied to the mortality in many, very many of these villages. Hardly the tenth part is left alive. Where were huts and groves, fruit trees and singing birds, temples and mosques is now a waste of jungle protecting with its dense shade mound after mound of mouldering mud the ruins of the old habitations, and tenanted by little else than Jackals, wild pigs and occasionally leopards. At intervals a part of a homestead is seen standing and inhabited sometimes by an old woman sometimes by young boys, seldom by a family capable of agricultural employment. The survivors though anxious to profit pecuniarily by the quantity of land thrown on the market, do not with all their exertions suffice to cultivate the fields hence the open plain though presenting a less impressive spectacle than the village site is not without signs, in many fields waste or over-grown with grass, of the calamity which has overtaken the village community.

Nor has the mortality even yet passed away. In a village where the population numbers now barely one hundred I was told by a villager that not a month passes by without a death. The people are shrivelled in limb and swollen in face their eyes are yellow and their hands tremble. In these respects they have somewhat improved on my experience of 4 years ago, but their unhealthiness is undeniable.

Mr. Pellew proposes the reclamation of these rivers. He says:

"What I advocate is something quite different. It is to restore the condition of things which existed before the closure; at the same time providing against the dangers which accompanied that condition of things. When the Salimabad river received a supply of water every rainy season there were complaints of floods it is true, but no complaint of want of water. Such a supply as the Damoodar can send into Kana Nudee from its flood level for a few weeks in the year is all and more than all that is necessary. To do this all that is required is a sluice the sill of which is at the level of the channel (64+m. s. l.) that was excavated in the bed of the Kana Nuddee to admit the water in the year 1875. The number and capacity of the gates should be such as to admit a considerable quantity in years in which the floods are moderate by opening all of them, whilst in years of excessive flood the closing of some of them would exclude an excessive volume.

It is however unnecessary to describe further what is required as the matter has been considered in the Public Works Department. The only objection to the plan is that the supply is given when least wanted that is in the height of the rains. But in reference to this I beg to state that what is wanted in ordinary years is not so much water, as a change of water. The beds of these rivers are all supplied with dams which effectually retain a large volume in a succession of long pools. This volume remain good for a time but at length turns fetid. If a fresh supply is admitted annually the water is good and potable. The people in fine will be quite contented if this be done and it seems to be the most reasonable method of reopening these rivers."

The Government has approved Mr. Pellew's scheme and given a grant of Rs. 20,000. Mr. Pellew proposes to raise about Rs. 15,000 by public subscriptions, half of which was subscribed by a few leading zemindars of the district, who had assembled at the public meeting convened by him. If his scheme supplies good drinking water, which is its primary object, it will be undoubtedly a great public benefit.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

The following is the latest intelligence from Europe.

London 25th May.—A Cabinet Council was held yesterday at which Count Schouvaloff's proposals were considered, but no decision was taken. Another Cabinet Council has been summoned for to-day, when it is expected that Government will resolve on bringing the negociations to a decisive issue, inasmuch, as it is believed that the Russian proposals are final. Prince Gortschakoff's health is worse. Consols, 96¼.

The Queen's Birth-day *Gazette* contains no promotions in the Army. Colonel Colley is created Knight Commander of Sains Michael and Saint George for services at the Cape; Sir Ashley Eden and Sir Colvin Bayley have been created Knights Grand Commanders of the Star of India; Mr James Gibbs, Colonel Merriman, Mr. James Bellot Richey Colonel Drever, Mr. John Garstin, Mr. Robert Davidson Mr. Charles Elliot, and Major Scott-Moncrieff have been created Companions of the Star of India.

WE ARE sorry to learn that ill-health again compels Mr. H. L. Dampier, Member of the Board of Revenue, to take leave. He is succeeded in the Board of Revenue by Lord Ulick Browne, the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, who is again succeeded by Mr. Wells, Officiating Commissioner of the Burdwan Division. It is said that Mr. Pellew, Magistrate and Collector of Hoogly, takes Mr. Wells' place.

ANOTHER SHOWER OF STARS. Some curiousity was felt on the 1st January last that Mr. Eden had not been "Sirred," but the honor we are glad to learn has come at last. In celebration of the Queen's Birthday Mr. Eden has been appointed a Knight Commander of the Star of India. Whatever the temporary feeling in Bengal towards him in consequence of the part he has taken in the enactment of the Vernacular Press Act, the people cannot but think that he has been one of their best friends, and they ought to rejoice at the honor done to their Governor. We also congratulate Mr. Stuart Bayley on the high distinction conferred upon him. The following gentlemen have been appointed Companions of the Star of India: *To be Companions*—The Hon'ble James Gibbs, Bombay Civil Service; Colonel C. J. Merriman, R. E.; Mr. J. B. Richey, Bombay Civil Service; Colonel Drever, Madras; Mr. Garstin, Madras Civil Service; Mr. Davidson, Madras Civil Service; Mr C. A. Elliott, Bengal Civil Service; Major Scott Moncrieff. We again notice that no judicial officer has been honored with the Star. No native has also been deemed fit for the honor. The Order was instituted by Lord Canning chiefly for the purpose of distinguishing native princes and gentlemen, but it is fast becoming the monopoly of European officials.

We are given to understand that no nominations will be made to the Order of the Indian Empire, as under the statute of the Order no additions can be made to it until the 1st January next.

SOME UNKNOWN native gentleman, who has been apparently watching with intense interest the progress of the Lokenathpore case, has adopted a graceful mode of signifying his personal appreciation of the services of Babu Ramgopal Sanyal, the mover, Mr. Monomohun Ghose, the Barrister, and Babu Okhoy Coomar Mookerjea, the Vakil, who sought to vindicate justice in that now memorable case. He has presented each of them a set of books. To Mr. Monomohun Ghose he has presented a set of the political works of Mazzini, and as we were made the medium of communication we give below Mr. Ghose's acknowledgement:

Bar Library 20th May 1878.

MY DEAR PAUL.—I really do not know in what terms to acknowledge the very flattering present which I have just now received through you I feel I have done nothing to deserve this token of regard from an unknown friend. The "services" to which you allude in your letter have been to me "a labour of love," for I felt it was my duty to vindicate what I felt to be the cause of truth and justice.

I will value the volumes very highly, especially as I had the honor of being personally introduced to Joseph Mazzini some years ago by a dear friend of mine, himself a Hungarian Patriot, who unhappilly is now no more

I shall be obliged by your kindly conveying to the donor my best thanks for the handsome present, and assuring him how highly I value the honor he has done me.

Yours sincerely
M. GHOSE.

THE SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL of Vaccination is taking vigorous steps to stamp out the epidemic of small-pox in Calcutta. He has obtained the sanction of Government to the following extended establishment:

Baboo Baid Nath Burmo Superintendent Mutty Lall Chuckerbutty Sree Nauth Dutt Personal Assistants One head and seven ordinary Vaccinators.	To work in Burrobazar and Collutolla Sections of the Town.
Rai Jadub Chunder Ghose Bahadoor, Superintendent Jadoo Nauth Dass Deno Nauth Benerjee Personal Assistants One head and seven ordinary vaccinators.	To work in Jorrabagan and JorasankoSections of the Town.
Rai Ram Sunder Ghose Bahadoor, Superintendent Gopal Chunder Ghuttuck and Kader Nath Gangoly, Personal Assistants One head and seven ordinary vaccinators.	To work in Shampooker and Kumar olli Sections of the Town.
Baboo Ram Chunder Mitter Superintendent of the North division with his vaccinators.	To work in Buntalla Sookea Street and Mochiparah sections of the Town.

Dr. Charles has also issued some well-considered instructions for the guidance of the Superintendents and Vaccinators.

LAST SATURDAY'S ENGLISHMAN gives the substance of a circular of the Government of India to the several Local Governments, in which it proposes what would virtually amount to the disarmament of the Native States. We have neither time nor space to comment upon it this week, but the reader will be able to form some idea of the policy of the Government from the following extract:

"There can be no doubt however," says the despatch, "of the propriety of doing so, if a practical scheme could be devised; but in the absence of one it is laid down that if the forces of a native chief are in excess of the internal requirements of his State they must be reduced. In certain cases however these forces perform duties which in British India are performed by the ordinary police and therefore it is not considered essentially necessary to insist on their being reduced in such cases. These troops also it would appear, keep order in many places in which if they were not there, we should have to station Imperial garrisons and they have also on occasions rendered excellent service to the British Government." Still the broad principle is affirmed that under present circumstances the armies of Native States should be limited to the number required for internal purposes and that any number obviously in excess of that—more particularly troops well disciplined and well equipped—"cannot be permitted with safety to the Native State itself or to the Empire."

The new policy will not be, however, applicable to Frontier States like Khelat and Kashmir, and presumably Nipal. We cannot understand how this policy is considered consistent with the treaties subsisting between the Native States and our Government. It is also strange that it should be announced just after the gracious acknowledgment by Her Majesty the Queen of the loyal and friendly offers made by several Native Princes to place their armies at the disposal of the United Kingdom in view of the threatened war between England and Russia.

WE ARE sincerely sorry to record the death of Sir William Grey. He was the fourth Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. Though no popularity-hunter, he was equally popular amongst the Europeans and Natives. The Chamber of Commerce and the Trades' Association equally honored him on his departure from this country by presenting him valedictory addresses, the former taking also a portrait, while the Native community held a public meeting, and voted him a full length portrait, which now graces the Town Hall. Although not so sagacious as Sir Frederic Halliday, not so brilliant as Sir John Peter Grant, not so accomplished as Sir Cecil Beadon, he was a man of great ability, broad views, and thorough conscientiousness. Indeed, his honesty of purpose commanded the respect of both Europeans and Natives equally. He was a man of strong convictions, and would not surrender them for any consideration. Before he became the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal he had filled some of the most prominent positions. He was Secretary to the Bank of Bengal, and no other Civilian Secretary to the Bank shewed a sounder knowledge of banking; he was instrumental in introducing several reforms in the Bank. He was for some time Director-General of the Post Office, and that department still remembers with gratitude the many improvements which he introduced. He was successively Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Government of Bengal, and to the Government of India, Home Department, and in all these capacities he served the Government ably and zealously. As a Member of the Supreme Council he exercised a healthy influence by checking the Punjabi proclivities of Lord Lawrence. His services as the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal are too well known to require recapitulation. He was a sincere friend of the people, and what he conceived to be right and just he would go through flood and fire to carry out. When he found the opposition of Lord Mayo's Government too strong to allow him to perform his duties conscientiously, he resigned. But he was not long out of harness. Her Majesty's Government, which appreciated his worth, appointed him successor to Sir John Peter Grant as Governor of Jamaica. Only a few months ago he returned from Jamaica in broken health. His loss is deeply mourned by the people of Bengal, whose substantial, though unostentatious services, they will always remember with gratitude.

IN OUR issue of the 15th April last, in commenting on the measures taken to enforce the License tax in Bengal, we wrote as follows:

The Surat demonstrations shew the necessity of the utmost caution on the part of the Government in carrying out the new taxation scheme. It should do all it can to obviate injustice and oppression. We however, doubt whether that object will be attained it as it is proposed in Bengal the whole work of assessment will be left to a parcel of ill-paid enumerators and inexperienced sub-deputies. We hear that the Bengal plan is to collect information about the means and earnings of the assessees by enumerators on Rs. 8 or Rs. 10 a month, to test it by circle officers, who will be canongoes and sub-deputies on salaries ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 a month, and then to leave the appeals to Deputy Collectors of some standing Thus practically the work of assessment will be done by these enumerators, canongoes and sub-deputies. Now, what reliance can be placed upon these men? Even if they do not abuse their power, their discretion cannot be depended upon, while if they convert it into a source of extortion and oppression, there will be little check over them, unless the poor sufferers complain, which they are not always likely to do for obvious reasons. We had expected that the assessment would be made by experienced Deputy Collectors under the immediate guidance and supervision of the Collectors, but the policy of Government seems to be only to save cost.

It is now stated that the Government has thought proper to dispense with the agency of enumerators on Rs 8 or 10 per mensem. It is added that a Committee of experienced Deputy Collectors of 24-Pergunnahs, Babus Issurchunder Mitter, Ramsunkur Sen, and Kallychurn Ghose, have reported to the Collector that only experienced Deputy Collectors should be employed in working the Act.

THE FOLLOWING notice is being served throughout the town of Calcutta:

FORM A,

Notice under Sections 80 and 81 of Act IV. (B. C.) of 1876.

To

Owner or Occupier of Premises, No.

Take notice that you are hereby required to furnish to the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Calcutta a list of persons residing in the above premises and of *their* respective professions, trades and occupations.

A copy of Form B. in which the return is to be furnished, is herewith annexed. Spare copies of the Form may be had on application to the undersigned.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

Municipal Office, 187 .

N. B.—Sections referred to in this Notice are printed on the reverse.

FORM B

Under Sections 80 and 81 of Act IV. (B. C.) 1876

No. of Premises and name of Street.	Name of owner or occupier.	Profession or trade or calling.	Name of residents.	Profession or trade or calling.

Owner or Occupier of premises,
No.

Dated 187 .

Taking the two forms together it means that the occupier of a house must furnish a list of the *names* of the persons residing in his premises, and their respective professions, trades, and occupations. That is to say the *names* must be given first, and then trades and professions, if any. The notice makes no distinction between males and females, and native gentlemen are taken quite aback that they should be called upon to give the names of their ladies, when these exercise no trades or professions. Even in making the census returns they were not required to give the *names* of their ladies. But who can fathom the wisdom of our Municipal Solons? If they are really wise, they ought to recall the present notice and notify that the names of ladies, who do not carry on trades or professions, are not wanted.

WE ARE glad to see that the labors of Babu Kanyelall Dey Rai Bahadur, as Officiating Chemical Examiner, have resulted in a substantial service to the cause of humanity. In his last annual report he made the following suggestions regarding the strength of the Lime or Lemon-juice supplied to the shipping:

I think it necessary in this place to make some observations on the quality of the lime juice supplied to the shipping as I deduce it from the samples submitted to this Department for analysis. From April 1877 to March 1878 seventeen samples, of lime and lemon juice were examined in this dept. forming stores of ships which came to this port, some of these were Calcutta-made and some had been procured from some out posts. In six of these samples the requisite quantity of acitric acid was found, that is from 20 to 27 grains per fluid ounce, but with two or three exceptions they were all adulterated. In some others there was a deficient supply of citric acid but the juice was of good quality that is unadulterated. The remainder of the samples were both weak and adulterated, some were mixtures of a variety of fluids except lime juice, others hardly contained so much as 10 or 11 grains citric acid per ounce. According to Dr. Park lime juice of standard strength should contain 32·5 grains of citric acid per fluid ounce, making allowance of 10 per cent for rectified spirit, the quantity of citric acid ought to be at least 29·25 and if 15 per cent of Brandy or Rum be added the amount of citric acid will be reduced to 28·6 grains per ounce. The average quantity of citric acid obtained from the several varieties of lemon or lime of the country is 27·5 grains which deducting 10 per cent of Rectified spirit for rectification will come down to 24·75 grains per fluid ounce, if 15 per cent of spirit, be employed the proportion of citric acid will be 23·34. If the strength of standard quality of lime juice be fixed at 25 grains per ounce, it will be sufficient for all practical purposes. Under the merchant shipping Act lime juice of passable quality ought to contain 25 grains of citric acid after the addition of 15 per cent of spirit for rectification.

In accordance with these suggestions the Government of Bengal has issued a revised notification on the subject. We give it below:

No lime or lemon-juice shall be deemed fit and proper to be taken on board any ship for the use of the crew or passengers thereof unless the same is shown by certificate, under the hand of an inspector appointed by the local Government to be proper for use on board such ship such certificate to be given upon inspection of a sample, but no such certificate to be given until it be shown to the satisfaction of such inspector that the juice contains not less than 25 grains of citric acid to the fluid ounce.

It does great credit to Babu Kanyelal Dey that this most important point in determining the quality of lime-juice has for the first time been brought by him to the notice of Government, which has as might be expected readily adopted his suggestion.

OUR ATTENTION has been drawn to that part of our article on Drainage in Bengal, published in our issue of the 13th instant, in which we commented on the remarks of the Lieutenant Governor on the silting up of rivers. We had in view large rivers only, that was to say, *navigable* rivers, and not small *khals*, through which the drainage of villages passed into those *rivers*, and to which His Honor alluded. As a matter of fact, there can be no question as to impediments having been offered to the drainage of villages by the silting up or the *bunding* of these khals by zemindars or their ryots with a view to retain monsoon water on their lands for agricultural purposes. Raja Degumber Mitter has given several instances in his pamphlet showing how the silting up or the bunding up of these khals has invariably resulted in the outbreak of fever in an epidemic form in some 60 or 70 villages in the Sub-Division of Jehanabad in the district of Hooghly. Mr. Pellew as we show elsewhere confirms this statement.

THE SNAITARY zeal of the Calcutta Corporation has received a rude shock. A part of the new system of removal of night-soil is the establishment of depots, which not unfrequently turns out to be a greater nuisance than what is proposed to suppress. The inhabitants of Sheriff Dufftry's Lane, who are suffering from a nuisance of this kind, receiving no redress from the executive, notwithstanding their repeated applications, have preferred a charge against the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Municipal Commissioners for creating the nuisance. As the case is *sub judice* we abstain from making remarks. Suppose some of the residents near other night-soil depots or near those tanks, which are being filled up with sweepings, and are thus causing nuisance to the neighbourhood, were to follow the example of the inhabitants of Sheriff Dufftry's Lane, what then?—

REVIEW.

Vyavastha Chundrika or a Digest of Hindu Law. By Shamachurn Sircar. Calcutta.

BABU SHAMACHURN SIRCAR has given the public another valuable product of his learned researches into the Hindu law. It is called *Vyavastha Chandrika* or a Digest of Hindu law as current in all the provinces of India except Bengal, comprising Vyavastha or principles deduced from Sanskrit books of paramount authority, viz.:—The Mitakshara, Vira-Mitrodaya, Vivada-Chintamani, Vyavahara-Moyukha, Smriti-Chandrika, &c., with authorities and interpretations, &c., from those books and other sources, annotations from the principles and elements of Hindu law, &c., also precedents of the Privy Council, the late Sudder and Supreme Courts, the present High Courts of Calcutta, Allahabad, Bombay and Madras, also admitted legal opinions, and *responsa prudentum*. This book consists of two volumes, the first volume consists of English translations with commentaries and precedents, and the second of the Sanskrit text with Urdu translations. The plan of the book is thus given in the preface, which is itself a very learned production:

Arrangement of Subjects in Part I.—In this, the *Vyavasthas* or principles of the *Mitakshara Vivada-chintamani Vyavahara-mayuka* and *Smriti-chandrika* the paramount authorities respectively of the Benares Mithila, Mahratta and Dravida schools,—and also of other books of high authority such as the *Viramitrodoya Vivadaratnakara* &c, have been arranged in each section and chapter, then under each *Vyavastha* is inserted the reason for it (if any,) and after that is cited the authority or authorities relative to that *Vyavastha*. If any term, phrase or passage required explanation a letter within parenthesis is placed after that and an explanation thereof is given in the words of some Commentator or Digest-writer in a following paragraph beginning with the same letter within parenthesis. If a principle was deducible or derivable from an authority or the explanation thereof that also has been put down with reason and further authority or authorities, if any. The annotations consist of passages taken principally from the works of European writers on Hindu law with the numbers of the *Vyavasthas* to which they relate. These are generally for the corroboration or further elucidation of the *Vyavasthas* to which they refer and sometimes for the purpose of showing the erroneous views which have been taken by those writers. Then in foot-notes are given the pages of the precedents bearing on or relative to each of the *Vyavashas*, and also such matters as are more minute and cannot fail to be interesting. Again to save the reader time and trouble the *Vyavasthas* or principles are kept distinguished by numbers, large type, and the marginal expression "*Vyavastha*," to enable him to find them out at once without having to hunt over the entire page; next if desirous or curious to know the authority, &c., upon which it is based or from which it is deduced he will be able easily to see these by a glance at the marginal expressions by which they also are designated and distinguished.

Arrangement of the Contents of part II—The decided cases are in the first place arranged and placed according to the books chapters and sections of the principles. Again those of the cases bearing on a *Vyavaastha* or *Vyavasthas* which are considered to be leading or more important than the rest are given *in extenso*, then are given in abstract the other cases bearing on, or relating to, the same *Vyavastha*, or *Vyavsthas*. After the decided cases are placed in the order as above Macnaghten's precedents that is, the admitted opinions of the Law-Officers selected, and printed as precedents, by Sir W. Macnaghten in the Second Volume of his work on Hindu law. These precedents are used as authorities and are for the greater part very correct, coming as they do from the pens of the *Pandits* who were thoroughly acquainted with, and knew, *the Dahrma-shastra*. And lastly the *Responsa prutendum*, that is opinions of the Law-Officers chiefly of the Madras Presidency with remarks thereon by Messrs Colebrooke, Sutherland, Ellis or any one or two of them, have been placed in the order of the decided cases. Most of the remarks above alluded to especially those from the pen of Mr. Colebrooke are for the most part very correct and useful.

The reason for my giving many of the cases *in extenso* is that, the greater part of the Reports from which they have been taken being rather scarce at least in the Mofussil, it was not considered sufficient to give only the names of the parties and courts and the dates of the decisions leaving the reader to procure and refer to the original books a complete set of which (at least those of the Privy Council, and the late Sudder and Supreme Courts of Madras and Bombay) is not to be easily procured in this country, and if at all procurable the above books would very likely cost the purchaser more than twenty times the price of the present work (the *Vyavastha-chandrika*) and even then without a translation in the Vernacular these would be of little or no use to the Practitioners ignorant of English. I have therefore considered it proper to give in *Urdu* as well as in English the important portions of well-nigh the whole of the important cases including the Sudder-Decisions for the years 1851 to 1862, which are not noticed even in any of the abstract Digests of cases.

The two volumes are a monument of Babu Shamachurn Sircar's industry, learning, and researches. No student of Hindu law ought to be without a copy of this work. Babu Shamachurn's publications on Hindu law have produced quite a revolution in its reading. He has placed before the assessors of the Hindu law so many valuable materials for forming judgment that no student's education on the subject can be said to be complete without his aid. The Government ought to assist this gentleman in publishing his books on Hindu and Mahomedan law.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	As.	P
Rai Kanyelal Bahadoor, Lahore	13	4	0
Maharaj Kumar Hurrendra Kishore Singh Bahadoor Bettia	15	0	0
Dr. B. Gupta, Pooree	13	4	0
H. Solomon Esq., Commilla	19	14	0
Baboo Okhoycoomar Mookerjee, Bancoora	13	4	0
„ Ramsoonder Ghose, Roy Bahadoor, Rajibpore	13	4	0
„ Bhagbut Nanda, Khoorda	5	0	0
„ Bapuram Sarmah, Nowgong	10	0	0
„ Kallynath Chowdhury, Julpiguri	13	4	0
„ Kalinarain Roy, Dinagepore	6	10	0
„ Haradhone Haldar, Lucknow	6	10	0
„ Poornochundra Das, Chittagong	10	0	0
„ Ramdoolal Khan, Santipore	27	0	0
„ Anundmoy Moitra, Santipore	13	4	0
„ Rajendernath Dey, Madras	1	2	6
„ Brojoputty Banerjee, Gowhatty	13	4	0
„ Jogodindra Deb, Raikit Bykuntpore	3	4	0
„ Kadernath Dutt, Bhuddruck	15	0	0
„ Gungachurn Gangooly, Egrah	10	0	0

LOCAL.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

(Concluded from the Supplement.)

Dr. Rajendralala Mitra remarked that there was an omission in the report which should be supplied. It was usual in annual administration reports to say something about the manner in which the ministerial officers placed under the executive body had discharged their duties, and the practice was a good one. It reproved the lazy, and encouraged the industrious; and those who worked faithfully and zealously from year's end to year's end well deserved a few words of encouragement. The speaker had many opportunities of judging of the work done by the ministerial officers of the Association, and he was sure that his colleagues in the Committee of Management would bear him out when he said that they had worked admirably, and fully earned the approbation of their immediate superiors. There was another officer whose services claimed special recognition—it was the Assistant Secretary. An abler, a more zealous, or, more indefatigable worker no public body ever had. Early and late, at every hour of the day, not unoften at night, he was at work, and nothing came before the Association which did not benefit by his aid and co-operation. Comparisons were proverbially odious; they were particularly so when the great was compared with the little. But the manner in which the AssistantSecretary discharged his duties reminded the speaker of an active maid-of-all-work—not a slatern or a sloven, but that jewel of an English domestic that makes a lower middle-class English home an Eden. (A laugh.) It is she whose diligence and activity make a room neat and tidy before the owner is out of his bed. She it is who greets him in the morning with his *cafe au lait*. It is the play of her brush that leaves not a fibre of cobweb on his wall, nor a speck of dust on his books. Her magic touch converts every brazen article in the house into gold. She acts the hall porter to receive his guests, the culinary maid in the kitchen to improve his dinner, and the faithful steward of his lares and penates. And when the day's work is done and he turns in it is she who helps him to his night-cap. And even as such a maid so was the Assistant Secretary (A laugh) He it was who kept the house of the Association all neat and tidy. He served the members with the earliest intelligence about all that they had to do. He received their guests. He did all their marketting. It is through his diligence and constant watchfulness that they had never heard of that ominous word "deficit," which in higher places commits such dreadful havoc. It was his tact and temper that kept all things square, and never permitted any disintegration. Then his blessed pen was ever at work and never at rest, and to it was, in a great measure, due the high credit of the Association. The speaker knew well his countrymen, and had no hesitation in saying that it would be extremely difficult to find among them one who could readily take the place of their Assistant Secretary (cheers). Nor was the Assistant Secretary satisfied with what he did as an officer of the Association. He subserved the cause of the Association wherever he went, and in every capacity he worked. Whatever a certain class may say to the contrary, the *Hindu Patriot* newspaper, which he edited, was in no sense an organ of the Association. Its proprietory was perfectly distinct, and it had no connexion whatever with the Association. It was conducted on purely patriotic principles, and its chief and only aim was the good of a country, and in conducting such a paper the editor could not but advocate the same cause which engaged the attention of the Association, and thus arose a consensus of opinion which was of immense service to the Association, and the editor became a valued coadjutor of your Committee of Management. His services as a member of the Legislative Council of Bengal and of the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta also subserved the object of the Association, and for them his countrymen should be deeply thankful to him. (Repeated Cheers.) The speaker was well aware that he had hurt the modesty of his friend by his remark, and that it would have been well if he had not given such a shock to the feelings of the Assistant Secretary as his remarks must have produced but in the discharge of a public duty he could not avoid them. He felt that it would be but meet and proper that the services he referred to should be adequately acknowledged in the Administration Report laid on the table, and he therefore proposed that the following paragraph be added to the report.

"In conclusion the Committee desire to express their high sense of the services rendered by their Assistant Secretary whose zealous discharge of his duties has materially helped to promote the usefulness of the Association. They have had also every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the Head Assistant, Babu Gopal Chunder Dutt, and of the assistants and clerks under him."

Kumar Kanti Chunder Sing seconded the amendment.

Both the original motion and amendment were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Babu Kally Mohun Das proposed the election of the following office bearers for the current year:

Raja Degumber Miter Bahadur, C.S.I., President, Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur, Raja Suttyanund Ghosal Bahadur, Raja Harendra Krishna Bahadur, and Rai Rajendralala Mitra Bahadur, LL.D., C.I.E., Vice-Presidents. Members of the Committee: Raja Rajendranarain Deb Bahadur, Babu Joykissen Mukerji, Babu Peary Chand Mittra, Babu Durga Churn Law, Kumar Debender Mullick, Babu Romanath Law, Babu Jodulal Mullick, Honorable Raja Promothonath Roy Bahadur, Nawab Ameer Ali Khan Bahadur, Babu Punnalal Seal, Babu Chunderkant Mukerji, Babu Krishna Mohun Mullick, Babu Greesh Chunder Ghose, Kumar Kanty Chunder Singh, Babu Ashutosh Mullick, Babu Peary Mohan Mukerji, Babu Tarriney Churn Banerji Babu Dennonath Mullick, Nawab Mir Mohamed Ali Bahadur, Babu Nurrendranath Sen, Nawab Ahmed Ali Bahadur, Babu Rasbehary Ghose, Horjibhai Maunockjee Rustomjee Esq., Babu Obhoy Churn Ghose; Hon'ble Maharaj Jotendra Mohan Tagore Bahadur, Honorary Secretary, Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal C. I. E., Assistant Secretary.

Babu RamChand Seal seconded the motion. *Carried.*

On the motion of Babu Jadulal Mullick, seconded by Babu Prosaud Das Dutt the name of Babu Kally Mohun Das was added to the list of the Committee.

Maharaja Narendra Krishna said—"In coming to this Hall I delusively looked for the amiable person who for a length of time filled the chair of this Association with great credit to himself and benefit to the public. I cannot believe that good men quit this world without leaving behind them tokens which bring them constantly before the mind's eye of their friends and countrymen. I see not the familiar face but nevertheless I am consoled in thinking that I can call to my recollection the many good acts which have endeared to us the name of my honourable and lamented friend the Maharaja Romanath Tagore. He was a true friend of our country he did much to promote its welfare and he died in doing good to it. He took an active part in raising this Association to its present flourishing condition. It is some satisfaction to me that I had to the best of my humble ability spoken of his valuable services when the citizens of this Metropolis met at the Town Hall soon after his death to do honor to his memory. They have done their duty and it now remains for the members of thie Association to testify their regard for him in a becoming manner by taking measure for keeping before their eyes the likeness of that venerable man when they enter this Hall. I therefore add to my satisfaction and most heartily propose that a portrait of the deceased nobleman be taken and the costs be defrayed out of the funds of the Association and that this Hall be decorated with it.

Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, in seconding the motion, said the only objection which could be urged against it was that a memorial had already been voted by the public, and another was not wanted. He did not share this idea. A memorial raised by the public was not the same with one by the Association. We could not have too many memorials of those who deserved them and no one deserved them so well as their late President Maharaja Romanath Tagore. The Association was under peculiar obligation to him, and it was but meet and proper that it should testify its sense of respect and esteem for the deceased by a memorial of its own. It was desirable that the venerable old nobleman (Sir Raja Radhakant) whose portrait graced the Hall should have his coadjutor placed beside him. A faithful likeness of the Maharaja Romanath Tagore would be a valuable acquisition. It would remind his successors of the path in which they should move, of the duties they owe to their country, and, of thedangers they should avoid. Then there were those who neverworked without an eye to the main chance. Self was the god of their idolatry, and nothing appeared good in their estimation which did not promise some thing for their especial benefit. Maharaja Romanath was the very opposite of these A perfect disinterestedness in all that concerned his counsel and an earnest devotion to do good for the sole purpose of doing good were his peculiar characteristics; and now that he was gone, it was highly desirable that a representation of his genial smiling countenance should be placed in the meeting room of the Association to reprove the faltering and the selfish and encourage those members who exerted to follow his footsteps. *Carried.*

Babu Kally Mohun Das then drew the attention of the Committee to the appointment of the Famine Commission and to the scope of their enquiries. He observed that the frequent recurrence of famine in this country imposed a serious responsibility upon the Government. The people of India were greatly indebted to the Government and to the great British nation for their generous exertions and contributions for the relief of the sufferers from the famine; but it was not enough to afford temporary relief to the sufferers; it was necessary if practicable to prevent the recurrence of such calamities or to enable the sufferers to withstand the ravages of the famine successfully when it would be inevitable. In that view he believed the Government had appointed a commission to enquire into the causes of the famine and to suggest remedial measures. In his opinion the scope of the enquiries of the Commission ought to embrace all parts of India for the famine was not confined to one tract of the country; this year it was in Bengal the next year, it was in Madras and Bombay: the third year it was in N. W. P. Thus all parts of the country were subject to the calamity; and the enquiry ought to be general. But it would appear from the terms of the despatch of the Secretary of State and the resolution of the Government of India that the enquiry would be made with special reference to the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay. And if the scope of the Commission enquiry be extended its basis should also be extended. It ought to be a representative commission and native gentlemen of intelligence and experience representing the different parts of the Empire ought to be associated with it. The witnesses ought to be examined. It was true there were ample records for the Commission to draw their deductions from, but they ought not to confine themselves to the official view of the question. They ought to examine independent witnesses possessing experience of the different provinces. He would accordingly move, that the attention of the committee be drawn to this scope of the enquiries of the newly appointed Famine Commission with a view to a representation to Government for the extension of the basis and scope of the Commission and the examination of witnesses by them.

Babu Jodulal Mullick seconded the motion.

Carried.

The Assistant Secretary reported that both Lord Northbrook and Mr. Fawcett had kindly consented to present the Taxation petitions to the two Houses of Parliament.

Thanks were next voted to the Chair and the Meeting separated.

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*May* 22, 1878.

GENERAL.—The subsidiary leave for fifteen days granted to Mr. A. P. MacDonnell, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Durbhanga, under orders of the 26th ultimo will have effect from the 6th May 1878, instead of from the 9th idem, as previously notified.

Mr. H. J. Newbery Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Bhagulpore, allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code with effect from the 3rd June next.

Mr. A. Forbes, C.S., is appointed to be a Member of the Committee for the management of the Zoological Gardens at Alipore.

The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India has been pleased to grant Mr. R. S. T. MacEwen, Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, six months' extension of furlough on sick certificate.

Mr. H. S. Beadon, Officiating Magistrate and Collector Cuttack is allowed leave for one month under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code,

Mr. F. F. Handley, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Cuttack, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of that district during the absence, on leave, of Mr. H. S. Beadon, or until further orders.

Mr. H. L. Dampier, Member of the Board of Revenue is allowed furlough for five months and twenty days, under Section 14 Chapter IV of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 11th June next, or any subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it. He is also allowed subsidiary leave for one day under Section 24 (a) of the Code.

Moonshee Fuzlur Rahman is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector in Nattore during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Uma Churn Laha, or until further orders.

Major T. H. Lewin Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling is allowed subsidiary leave for thirty days from the 24th November last, to enable him to rejoin his appointment on his return from furlough.

Major Lewin is also allowed furlough from the 24th December to the 3rd February last, under Rule XI of the Regulations of 1868

Mr. H. G. Cooke Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Saran, is allowed leave for twenty-one days under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Mr. J. Posford C.S., reported his departure from India on furlough per steam ship *Kashgar* on the 13th instant.

Mr. A. C. Brett, having reported his return from furlough on the 11th instant, is allowed subsidiary leave from the date to the 13th idem, to enable him to join his appointment as Officiating District and Sessions Judge of Shahabad.

Mr F. H. B. Skrine C. S., has been allowed by the Government of Fort St. George furlough for twenty months under Section 12 of the Civil Leave Code together with subsidiary leave for thirty days under Section 24 of the Code with effect from the 19th March last.

POLICE.—The services of Mr. W. R. Green Assistant Superintendent of Police, Dacca, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

In modification of the orders of the 30th ultimo Mr. E. B. Baker, Deputy Inspector-General of Police is allowed subsidiary leave for twenty days to enable him to proceed on furlough.

Advertisements.

WANTED.

By the Road Cess Committee Rungpore, a District Engineer at a salary of Rs. 650 per mensem rising by annual increments to 800 per mensem exclusive of travelling allowance, which will be paid at the rate prescribed by the P. W. Code. In case of a P. W. officer his contribution besides for a pension and furlough allowances will be paid by the Committee. Qualifications required up to the standard of P. W. D. Executive Engineer. Applications with statement of qualifications to be made to the undersigned to reach not later than 10th June 1878, the appointment will take effect from 30th September 1878 and will be on probation for a year.

J. J. LIVESAY,
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Apply to *Printer.*

A course of Theological Lectures will be commenced in connection with the Cathedral Mission College on Monday the 24th June.

Candidates are requested to apply to the Rev. E. K. Blumhardt, Christ Church Parsonage, Cornwallis Square, Calcutta.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND, 1877.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Fund held in the Town Hall, on Monday, the 20th of May instant (Mr Justice Jackson Chairman in the Chair), it was resolved that the operation of the Fund be closed as from the 30th of June proximo.

F. J. FERGUSSON, } Honorary
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Town Hall 21st May 1878.

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VACCINATION.

Owing to the exceptional weather that we are now having the prevalence of small-pox which on the 1st of February was notified, as going to take place during March and April continues longer than was anticipated. If this weather should last the disease may be expected to extend its ravages into the cold season when it will rage as an epidemic.

To avert such a very serious calamity the strength of the Vaccine Establishment in the Northern Division of Calcutta has been much increased and a vigorous effort is being made to stamp out small-pox by vaccination. All educated men or those possessed of any influence, employers of labour and others interested are invited to assist in persuading all unprotected persons to be vaccinated.

In order to accomplish the end in view of discovering all unprotected persons room to room visitation will be necessary, and the hearty co-operation of the community is solicited to afford facilities for search.

As there is no danger of the disease suddenly assuming more alarming proportions than it has done during March and April, all panic on this account is to be deprecated, while with the object of providing against further great loss of life after next rains are over, the assistance of all classes of the residents of Calcutta is publicly invited. Extensive revaccination is for the present not encouraged, except in the immediate neighbourhood of cases of small-pox, while if such a measure as general revaccination should become necessary notice will be supplied to the Public in good time.

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Form E.

ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT.

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 112, 114, 115 AND 116 OF ACT IV. (B. C.) OF 1876.

NOTICE is hereby given that the measurements and valuations or assessments of the portion of the Town, noted in the margin, have been completed, and that the book containing the said measurements and valuations or assessments can be inspected on any day, (Sundays and Holidays excepted) at the Office of the Commissioners, No 4, Jaun Bazar Street, between the hours of 11 A.M. and 4. P. M.

North by Bowbazar Street, Lall Bazar Street Dalhousie Square and Fairlie Place.
South by Dhurmotola St., and Esplanade Row.
East by Circular Road. (Lower)
West by River Hooghly.

Any person, desiring to appeal against the said measurements and valuations or assessments, must, within fifteen days from this date, deliver at the Office of the Commissioners a notice in writing, stating the grounds of appeal, and also informing the Commissioners whether he intends to appeal under Clause *a* or *b* of Section 144 of Act IV. (B. C.) of 1876.

The Commissioners will proceed to hear the appeals under Clause *a* of Section 144 on Monday, the 10th day of June 1878 at the Town Hall at noon.

But no such appeal will be heard by the Commissioners unless the provisions of Section 115 of the said Act have previously been complied with, and unless the appeal is preferred by the person who, at the time the appeal is made, shall be recorded in the Assessment Book, as the owner of the house or land to which the appeal refers, or by the occupier thereof, or by the agent of either of them.

R. TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation
21*st May* 1878. *of the Town of Calcutta.*

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Kaira, Guzrath.

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SUPPLEMENT TO

THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

CALCUTTA :—MONDAY, MAY 27, 1878.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held at the Hall of the Association on Wednesday, the 15th May 1878, *at* 4-30 P.M.

Raja Degumbur Mitter, C. S. I., Senior Vice-President, in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN opened the meeting by making the following remarks :—

"Gentlemen,—The meeting we hold to-day is the twenty sixth annual meeting of the British Indian Association. It is an event on which we all may well congratulate ourselves. To me as a foundation member of this Association it is a matter of great satisfaction to see that for six and twenty years it has lived and grown, pursuing its career of usefulness, steadily, perseveringly and faithfully. This Association was originally founded for three years. It was ushered into existence at that memorable epoch in the history of British India, when the Charter of the East India Company was about to be renewed for the last time. Great reforms were expected; public opinion in India and England was then strongly in favour of such reforms. It was, however, argued that if the natives wanted these reforms they must come forward and demand them, and it was accordingly determined by the leading gentlemen of the day to band themselves together and to put their own shoulders to the wheel of reform. They were the pilgrim fathers, who explored the land of reform, but alas! how few of them are left to-day to witness the edifice the foundation of which they laid. Such was the origin of the British Indian Association. For three years it was incessantly occupied with the discussions of the Charter: it petitioned Parliament, it engaged, at great expense, agents in London to agitate the cause of Indian reform, and invoked the sympathy of the Press, and it did succeed to a great extent in the cause it espoused. The Legislative Council was re-organized on an extended basis, that was to say, on the principle of representation of the Local Governments, and its doors were thrown open to the public. A responsible Local Government was conceded to Bengal. The Covenanted Civil Service was thrown open to public competition irrespective of distinctions, of country, color and creed. A new impetus was imparted to the cause of education. These were no small reforms, and if this Association had done nothing else but labored to secure these reforms, it had fulfilled the object for which it had been established. But while pursuing the Charter discussions, it found many local questions of great importance pressing upon its attention, and so it continued to bestow its thoughts and energies upon them. In the meantime, the stipulated three years had elapsed, but the members found the Association an instrument of great public good, and so they abandoned the idea of a dissolution. They went on in their self-imposed task of ameliorating the condition of the people, of lending a tongue to them, and of co-operating with the "powers that be" in the cause of order and good government; and they had their reward. The reports of the Association for the last six-and-twenty years shew the variety of subjects, which have from time to time engaged the attention of the Association, the assiduity and earnestness with which the managing committee have from year's end to year's end laboured in elucidating them and representing them to Government for redress, and the perseverance with which they have thus contributed to the awakening, moulding and maturing of native public opinion. They might not have always commanded success, but it could not be denied that they have done their best to deserve it. Indeed, remembering that the British Government in this country by its position must be despotic, we ought to feel thankful that the deliberations of this Association have had in many instances a visible and healthy influence upon the course of legislation and administration.

The report of your Committee for the last year will be presently read by your able and indefatigable Assistant Secretary, the Honorable Kistodas Pal, Rai Bahadur, and I dare say you will find in it the same evidences of unflagging industry, indomitable zeal, untiring perseverance, and unflinching devotedness to the interests of the country. I cannot conclude without expressing my sincere and profound sorrow at the death of the Maharaja Romanath Tagore, C.S.I. the venerable and venerated President of the Association. I had the melancholy satisfaction of dwelling on his public virtues and services at a public meeting held in his honor last year, and I will not therefore repeat what I then said. But I cannot refrain from remarking that if there was any member, to whom this Association owed a debt immense of endless gratitude for the single-minded devotion of the best part of his life to the interests of the Association, it was my esteemed and venerable friend, the late Maharaja Romanath Tagore Bahadur.

The annual report of the Committee was then read and a statement of the accounts of the past year was laid on the table.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee submit the following Report of their operations during the year 1877:—

GENERAL LEGISLATION

CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE.—As stated in their last half-yearly report the Civil Procedure Bill occupied a considerable portion of the Committee's time. In their memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy in Council they remarked that the Bill as far as it sought to consolidate and embody in a single enactment the different laws which regulated the procedure of the Courts in the trial of civil suits, was a decided improvement on the existing laws on the subject, but there were points in it which were open to serious objections. They took exception to the provisions for the service of summons and processes the verification of plaints, *exparte* decrees, service of notice for the same, service of interrogatories on pleaders, award of interest by Courts for money borrowed and repayment of the capital, and suggested some modifications of those provisions. They pointed out the vagueness in the sections providing for execution sales, and remonstrated against the provision that suits against Government should not be entertained by the subordinate courts without the order of the District Court and dwelt on the mischievous tendency of the provision that a judgment-debtor being arrested and brought before the Court shall be advised by it to apply for the insolvency clauses of the Bill. Regarding the provision for the award of interest by Courts the Committee submitted that the restriction on the rate of interest and repayment of capital would have the effect of hampering the loan transactions of the country. If the clause about payment by instalment were made applicable to rent-suits, it would destroy a powerful incentive in the ryot to pay up his just debts. Referring to the provision that mesne profits shall not be allowed for more than a year from the day of institution of the suit, the Committee recommended the omission of the section on the ground that it was always optional with the decree-holder to execute the decree with expedition, there being the contingency of an appeal and the decree being set aside by the appellate court. They further suggested that the minimum rate of interest after date of decree might be fixed at 12 per cent. per annum. With regard to the sections relating to the execution of decrees they represented that if the provisions be passed into law, they should not be allowed retrospective effect inasmuch as it would be extremely unjust to make them applicable to transactions made and contracts entered into before the passing of the Bill. As for the restrictions proposed to be imposed on the recovery of costs of applications for execution of decrees they observed that a decree-holder would always be most glad to obtain complete satisfaction of his decree, and that repeated applications in consequence of delay in obtaining satisfaction did not imply neglect on the creditor's part. To guard against delay in the execution of decrees the award of costs on applications for executions of decrees other than the first might be left to the discretion of the courts. Partial abolition of imprisonment for debt, the Committee pointed out, would encourage ryots to withhold payment of rent—the distraint of crops for rent applying to the current year's rent only. But the distraint law was quite non-effective in case of joint undivided property, to which it did not apply. The provision for the sale of property by the District Court in execution of decrees passed by subordinate courts would not only cast an unmerited slur upon the subordinate courts, but would prove detrimental to the interests of both the judgment debtor and decree-holder. The vagueness in the sections providing for execution of sales arose from obscurity in the statement whether the property itself or the right title and interest of the judgment debtor in the property was to be sold. Respecting the provision providing the entertainment of suits against Government by subordinate courts the Committee urged that it introduced an invidious distinction between Government and private individuals, which was repugnant to the spirit of British legislation, not to say that it would reflect an unmerited distrust in the subordinate courts. The Bill has passed into law with several modifications on the points noticed in the memorial.

MASTER AND SERVANT'S BILL.—This Bill which was introduced in the last session of His Excellency the Governor General's Council threatened to seriously disturb relations, which existed in this country between servants and their employers, specially between domestic servants and their masters. Accordingly the Committee considered it their duty to represent to the Council that a Bill of this description ought to be founded on the usages and customs of the country. They alluded to the dissimilarity of treatment of servants of the same master which would necessarily follow the definition given of a domestic servant, as one who did household work in one's own house or compound, as distinguished from those who performed out-door work as malis, paiks, grass-cutters and others. Referring to the presumed contract of service of a household servant as limited to a month and the provision of 15 days' notice on the part of either master or servant for the termination of contract, the Committee observed that the notice of fifteen days was not customary in this country, and that the result of this provision would be that the servant would always have an advantage over the master for the simple reason that while it would be always easy for the servant to enforce the law against his master, the master might be utterly unable to discover the whereabouts of the servants if he left without giving notice, and that even if the master should succeed in dragging the servant into court, still he would have generally little to satisfy his claim, not to say, that recourse to a court of law against a servant was repugnant to the native feeling. Similar presumption was made with regard to the employment of higher servants such as tutor and clerk, as to the period of their engagement, and three months' notice was provided for the termination of contract by either employer or employe; the Committee urged that in this country no servant is employed by the year, that the contract of service was terminated at the option of the parties concerned, that the proposed rule would revolutionize the existing relations between master and servants, and in the case of mohurirs and other confidential clerks it would hold out a premium to disobedience, discontent and extortion. The provision might be equitable in respect of clerks and assistants brought out from a foreign country. The Committee took exception to the provision that the servant must not set up the title of any third person to money or goods received in opposition to his master's title thereto, on the ground that a servant should not be made judge in this matter. With regard to the section providing that the whole time of the domestic servant belonged to the master the Committee remarked that there were numerous servants who rendered service during the day and were quite free at night. Section 15, the Committee observed, would prove a fruitful source of litigation, and a powerful engine of annoyance in the hands of the evil-disposed to those with whom they might be in enmity. From the wording of section 18 it was not clear, whether a master was bound to accept the service of a person who offered himself as a servant. The trouble, labour, inconvenience and harassment, which the provisions for the registration of servants would entail, would entirely neutralize the benefits of registration. The Committee lastly observed that the harmony which now existed between native masters and servants would be rudely shaken by the introduction of the Bill under comment and prayed that native masters and servants should be exempted from its operation.

The Committee are glad to state that the Bill as amended has been divested of many of its objectionable features, and that it would not be applicable to Hindus, Mahomedans and Buddists. They have

been invited to express their opinion on the amended Bill, which they will take an early opportunity to submit.

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS BILL.—The Committee submitted a representation in respect of this Bill. They were of opinion that by excluding the native Hundis or bills of exchange from the operation of this Bill the Legislature had exercised a sound judgment inasmuch as the provisions of the proposed bill were based chiefly upon English law and practice, which were not applicable to the Indian system of bills of exchange. They also pointed out a discrepancy in the provision about the day on which a bill of exchange would be payable, if the due date fell on a holiday and also on a non-business day. With regard to a non-business day it was provided that the bill should be deemed to be due on the next preceding business day, but if the day of maturity was a public holiday then on next succeeding business-day. The distinction, the Committee observed, between a non-business day and a public holiday, was not clear since a public holiday was also a non-business day. The Committee expressed similar doubt as to the explicitness of the provision regarding the liability of agents when they signed bills of exchange, promissory notes or cheques. In one case though the agents did not indicate their capacity as agents they were to be considered liable; in the other case when those, to whom the bills or cheques were granted, knew that the signatories acted as agents they were not to be liable. The Committee suggested that the provisions of the law should be made explicit.

CESS LEGISLATION.

With reference to the Bill introduced into the Council of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal for levying a cess upon land in order to enable the local Government to raise from this province a sum of about Rs. 27,50,000, the Committee applied to the Lieutenant Governor in Council to be heard by Counsel in accordance with the precedent followed in the case of the Calcutta Municipal Bill of 1876.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT.—The Government in reply said that the Council of the Lieutenant Governor had no power or authority to hear counsel and that the concession made by the Select Committee on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, in 1876 was in forgetfulness of the prohibitory rule, and that even if it were otherwise, His Honor would not have thought it necessary to ask the Council because in respect to the incidence of taxation, the Bill was in every particular identical with the District Road Cess Act. The allegation about the difference in principle between the Road Cess Act and the Provincial Cess Bill did not bear on the particular principle of the Bill to which exception was taken, as the local character of the expenditure was never assigned as a reason why such taxes were held to be leviable consistently with the Permanent Settlement. There was, His Honor said, a misapprehension on the part of the Association of the views expressed by Sir Barnes Peacock on the subject. All that Sir Barnes had urged was that the Government had bound itself not to raise the jumma of the proprietors of permanently settled estates as a separate and independent body. His Honor further hinted that if the plea of the breach of the Permanent Settlement was lightly and too often brought forward it might put arguments into the mouths of the enemies of the settlement who might question the binding nature of the covenant. The covenant had two parts, one relieved the owners of estates from periodical increase of their land assessment, the other imposed certain direct obligations which were shifted on from Government to the landholders in consideration of the concession. The Lieutenant-Governor lastly gave assurance of his distaste to impose fresh taxes upon any classes of the people of the Lower Provinces, but it was his duty to give effect loyally to the instructions which he had received from the Government of India.

MEMORIAL TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—After the receipt of the above reply the Committee submitted a memorial to the Lieutenant Governor in Council praying that the Public Works Cess Bill might not be passed into law. The reasons they urged in support of the memorial were, that the proposed tax was one-sided and fell heavily on one province and that it involved a direct breach of the Permanent Settlement. For the construction of the covenant of the Permanent Settlement the Committee referred to the opinions of distinguished members of the Indian Council, who were unanimous in their disapproval of the despatch of the Secretary of State on the Road Cess Act, and held that such an imposition would be a direct violation of British faith. As to the opinion of Sir Barnes Peacock referred to in the Government reply the Committee observed that Sir Barnes Peacock wrote against the Rural Cess or Police Tax which was to have been a special or separate tax upon the land, and that the proposed Public Works Cess was of the same character and not a liability laid upon the landholders in common with others. The Committee did not deny the common liability of all property to taxation for the exigencies of the State, but they urged that a tax on rent would fall wholly on the landlord, that the proposed cess was consequently an increase of the public demand upon land, and necessarily involved a breach of the Permanent Settlement. The rapid growth of the wealth and prosperity of the Lower Provinces, ascribed to the Permanent Settlement, did not establish the reasonableness of taxing the landed class alone. As to the remark that the plea of breach of faith might put arguments into the mouths of enemies of the settlement adverse to it, history bore ample testimony how the settlement had benefited both the state and the people. With regard to the obligation of the proprietors of land to protect and improve estates by embankments and irrigation works the Committee submitted that the landholders never repudiated their obligation or neglected to fulfil it where it did really exist, but the duty of such protection and improvement was under the Permanent Settlement Regulations divided between the Government and the Zemindar. The Committee further urged that from the fact that famines which were of frequent occurrence anterior to the Settlement had almost disappeared since the Settlement and that it might therefore be confidently maintained that the Permanent Settlement had answered the expectations of its framers in being instrumental in protecting the crops and guarding against occurrence of scarcity and famines. The Committee next remarked that it was on the faith of the inviolability of the Permanent Settlement that proprietors had laid out large sums of money on the reclamation and improvement of their estates, and capitalists had invested their capital in the purchase of estates at high rates, and they could not but feel deeply aggrieved by the increase of public demand upon the land by the imposition of new taxes. Of the two contracting parties to the Permanent Settlement, the Government or the powerful partner was now the arbiter and judge, that circumstance greatly enhanced the responsibility of Government in construeing the true character of the covenant. The Government contended that this cess had the special recommendation of its being proposed to fall upon the classes who benefited most by irrigation and railways, and who were as a rule free from all municipal taxation. The Committee in reply submitted that all classes of the community participated in the benefits of these works and that the landed class was not free from municipal taxation. The Committee suggested that to obviate all objections on the ground of the tax being partial in its incidence, and to remove all grounds of class dissatisfaction, such a form of taxation should be devised as would necessarily throw the burden equally upon all classes according to the means of the payers. The Committee submitted in conclusion that in consequence of the time given to the public being too short, the people in the interior had scanty opportunity to make known their views and sentiments in respect of the Bill. They prayed for sufficient time being allowed to the public for the consideration of the measure.

GOVERNMENT REPLY TO THE MEMORIAL.—The Government in reply observed that there was no argument in the memorial which had not been urged before in respect to the Income tax or the Road Cess Act. The arguments had been set aside by the Secretary of State, and even if the decision were on insufficient grounds it would still have been incumbent upon the Lieutenant-Governor to accept it as final and to be guided by it in all future legislation. That the decision of the Secretary of State was final might be inferred from the words of the despatch, dated 12th May 1870, referred to, and in the same despatch the principle by which the Government was to be guided was defined. The Government re-affirmed the opinion that the Permanent Settlement was not a final determination of all rates and taxes upon all persons and classes making a profit from the land. It was only a final and perpetual fixation of the relative shares of Government and the zemindars in the produce of the land. At the Permanent Settlement the question of the liability of the zemindars in common with others was left open, it was never settled one way or other. No idea of the exigencies of the Empire was then in the mind of Government. The Lieutenant-Governor denied that the Road Cess was an addition to the public demand upon the land which had been fixed for ever. The opinions quoted in support of the view that the zemindars were exempted from future taxation by the Permanent Settlement referred to a different state of things to that under consideration. Those opinions were directed against the imposition of increased assessment upon the zemindars only. As to the local application of taxes raised in any particular province it was impossible to localise the entire cost of such great works as local cheap railways and the maintenance of irrigation works within the small focus of a single district, and it had therefore been determined to make the province and not the district the unit of localisation. As regards the works of public utility executed by the zemindars and referred to in the memorial the Lieutenant Governor was not aware of any works of irrigation constructed by zemindars in Bengal on such a scale as would justify the inference drawn. The figures given in the memorial did not justify the conclusions in respect to the proportionate incidence of indirect taxation in Bengal as compared with other provinces, neither those quoted showed that the assertion that Bengal was overtaxed for the benefit of other provinces was well-founded. After a careful consideration of all that had been urged in the memorial the Lieutenant Governor was compelled to decline to accede to the request of refraining from passing the Bill into law. With regard to the form of taxation suggested in the memorial the Lieutenant-Governor received no hints from those whom he consulted on the subject, composing men of every class and interest, which would meet the definition given in the memorial, nor was His Honor able to think of any possible tax which would cause no class dissatisfaction.

APPEAL TO THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.—After the receipt of the above reply the Committee appealed to His Excellency the Viceroy. In their appeal to the Viceroy they stated that they would not repeat the arguments already set forth in their correspondence with the Bengal Government, observing that they naturally felt diffident in carrying on a controversy on a question, which the local representative of Her Imperial Majesty held had been closed by Her Majesty's Government. But the peculiar position they occupied in respect of the vast population interested in land in these provinces was their excuse for further intrusion. As for the argument that the proposed cess was not an infringement of the Permanent Settlement the Committee urged in addition to what they had stated in their previous memorials that according to eminent authorities the right of empire and sovereignty did not extinguish the proprietory right in the subject, that the interference of Government with that right did not negative its existence; that the soil belonged to the subject, the khiraj to the State. Of the net produce of agricultural produce the share which the cultivator made over to the owner of land constituted rent, and therefore what the owner paid to Government was clearly a deduction from rent. Hence the *jamma* was a tax upon rent, and any new demand upon the landowner of a further portion of what he received from his tenant was an increase of the *jumma*. The property in the land being vested in the landlord, any addition to the land tax from whomsoever levied was necessarily an infraction of the covenant of the Permanent Settlement. It had been urged by the local Government that the arguments advanced against the Public Works Cess had been advanced against the Road Cess and set aside by the Secretary of State, but the Committee observed that the manner of the assessment and administration of the Cess had been held by that functionary to be the chief argument in favor of that Cess. The question of the abstract right of Government to tax further the land as such was involved in the first point and the Secretary of State held that apart from that question the purposes to which the Road Cess would be applicable, were a sufficient justification for it—the benefits to the cess-payers "being immediate, direct, and palpable." There was thus no fair analogy between the Public Works Cess and the Road Cess, and therefore the decision arrived at in respect of the Road Cess could not justly affect the action of Government in respect of the Public Works Cess.

The Lieutenant Governor was further of opinion that irrigation works and State railways were works of local utility, the charge for them necessarily devolved upon the provincial fund. But it was pointed out that the Finance Minister admitted that it was difficult in cases of the kind referred to to draw a line of distinction between works which were of local utility and which were of general usefulness, it was therefore not just to make the province in which works were situate as a unit for purposes of taxation to meet deficiency of revenue for their maintenance. If the canals were unremunerative in Bengal so were those of Northern India and Madras, and it could not be right or just that Bengal should be subjected to special taxation on account of the canals constructed within its territorial limits. In the other provinces the Imperial Government either maintained or guaranteed railways, but in Bengal it proposed to vary the principle.

The estimate of the financial position of Bengal made by the local Government in its reply to the memorial of the Association was not fair, as it excluded receipts from salt, customs and opium, three prolific sources of income yielding together about seven crores of rupees. It was not the intention of the Committee as might be inferred from the words of the Lieutenant

Governor to urge any reduction of taxation because Bengal yielded a larger revenue than the other provinces, but to insist upon the point, that as the local surplus of Bengal was very large, it would be unfair to lay fresh burden upon it for purposes which were hitherto considered, imperial but now declared provincial or local. The Committee in conclusion observed with sorrow that in availing themselves of the inherent right of the subject to make known his grievances to the Sovereign in respect of their honest convictions as to the bearing of the Public Works Cess upon the Covenant of the Permanent Settlement, the Lieutenant Governor construed it into "an odious charge" against the Government. They prayed that His Excellency the Governor General would be graciously pleased to take into consideration the statements and arguments contained in this and their memorial to the Lieutenant Governor and withhold his assent to the Public Works Cess Bill.

Reply of His Excellency the Viceroy.—The Government of India in the Department of Revenue Agriculture and Commerce acknowledged the receipt of the memorial and in reply noticed the circumstances under which the Public Works Cess Bill had been introduced, and took upon itself the chief and real responsibility of the measure. The conclusion was deliberately adopted by the Governor General in Council in communication with the local Government, that of all the forms of taxation which could be devised for the purpose of raising the necessary funds in Bengal, none was open to so little objection as an extension of the existing Road Cess. In asking the Governor General to withhold his assent from the Bill the Association was not only asking His Excellency to disapprove a Bill passed in the usual manner but to set aside a decision deliberately adopted by the Government of India. After giving the most careful consideration to the memorial the Governor General inferred, that the main contention was that the imposition of fresh taxation in the manner proposed by the Bill was an infringement of the conditions of the Permanent Settlement. His Excellency concurred in the views explained by the Lieutenant Governor and he did not think it necessary to withhold his assent to the Act. His Excellency held that discussion on the subject was the less necessary because the same arguments as those now brought forward had been urged against the imposition of the Road Cess and the Income tax, had been deliberately considered by Her Majesty's Government and by the Government of India and the discussion had been finally closed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State. His Excellency the Viceroy shared the regret expressed by the Lieutenant Governor that the British Indian Association had thought fit to bring against the Government the charge of deliberately determining to commit a breach of faith with the people of Bengal. With regard to the objections taken to the statement of the Lieutenant Governor as to the lightness of taxation in Bengal His Excellency was of opinion that what had been said by the Association with regard to salt revenue was incorrect. There were obviously no grounds on which the whole of the customs revenue collected in Calcutta should be credited to Bengal. In regard to the opium revenue not only was none of it paid by the people of Bengal, but the production was notoriously a source of advantage to them. Altogether it was an indisputable fact that no province in the empire in proportion to its population and wealth contributed so little to the public revenue as Bengal. For these reasons His Excellency was unable to accede to the prayer of the memorialists.

Appeal to the Country.—When memorials and applications to the local Government in India failed in obtaining the redress sought for, the Committee thought it their duty to appeal to the land-owners of Bengal generally on the subject, in view to a representation to the Crown and Parliament. The plan of operations which the Committee proposed to adopt was explained. The Committee having received a favorable response to their appeal from several zemindars submitted a case for Counsel for opinion. The altered circumstances of the country since the imposition of the Public Works Cess, necessitating heavy taxation to meet part famine expenditure and to provide for a famine insurance fund, and the threatening aspect of affairs in Europe in consequence of the late Russo-Turkish War, have induced the Committee to suspend further action for the present.

Irrigation Bill.—This Bill forms a pendant to the Public Works Cess, the object of which was to levy a compulsory rate for the construction and maintenance of Irrigation Works. The Committee in their memorial submitted that for the principal food crops in Bengal there was no demand for steady and continued irrigation, that adequate provision existed for certain cold weather crops which required artificial supply of water, that droughts in Lower Bengal were of rare occurrence. Judging from experience of the past it appeared that works which had been already executed or were in progress afforded very little relief to the cultivators, who received scarcely any supply of water when needed as the canals generally failed when there was want of water and yielded supply when no water was wanted. In Behar the wells, tanks and nullahs supplied the wants of the people. So the losses which the ryots would suffer by the yearly payment of the rate would scarcely be compensated by their gains in exceptionally bad years of drought occurring at long intervals, and the people in some places might well question the justice of a compulsory rate for benefits which were not palpable. Regarding canals as means of communication they ought to be supported from the Road Cess Fund. A compulsory rate for irrigation was at variance with the principles on which such works were constructed and maintained in other parts of India and opposed to the decision of the Secretary of State arrived at in 1869 in reference to the Punjab Canals Bill. The principle that those who benefited by irrigation should contribute to the maintenance of irrigation works was overlooked in this measure, and all owners of land in Bengal would be called upon to support the undertakings. There was thus no equitable principle for this compulsory rate.

The Committee are glad to state that the passing of this Bill is held in abeyance.

FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Famine Budget.—Towards the close of the year Sir John Strachey made an exposition of the ways and means by which the Government of India proposed to put itself in funds to meet famine-exigencies. The plan proposed was to raise an additional sum of £1,5000,000 as an insurance against famine and a further sum of £5,00,000 as a reserve fund. In pursuance of the decentralization scheme the Provincial Governments were vested with absolute power over provincial funds and certain other sources of income which were hitherto incorporated with the imperial revenues, but they were at the same time burdened with the cost of all provincial works and the responsibility of meeting famine charges of their respective provinces. The share of the contribution allotted to Bengal was fixed for the ensuing year (1878) at thirty lacs of rupees. Although the object of additional tax was declared to be to provide for famine expenditure, practically it would swell the general revenue of the State. In fact the money would be devoted as much to other objects as to famine. The assurance held out "that the estimates of every year ought to make provision for religiously applying the sum above-mentioned to this sole purpose" that is to say to famine, is not consistent with the declaration that it might be applied to other purposes, when the exigencies of the State might so require.

Famine Insurance.—The next point which came for consideration before the legislature was—what measures were to be considered as an insurance against famine. His Excellency the Viceroy in his speech on the Famine Budget adverted to three suggestions as preventives of famine, namely, Emigration, Railways, and Irrigation works, which deserved consideration. One principle to be kept in view in determining measures preventive of famine was that the increase of population shall keep pace with the food-growing powers of the land, and where the population increased so fast as to outstrip these powers it should be kept down within due limits by emigration, but of emigration in India it was observed that it was inapplicable or only very imperfectly applicable to the actual conditions of this country. "The first condition requisite to make emigration available as a precaution against famine, is a normal excess of the population as compared with the food-produce of the country; the second condition is sufficient energy on the part of the surplus population to induce it to seek a higher standard of material comfort than that to which it is accustomed, and the third condition is a foreign field of labour in which this higher standard may be reached. Now, none of these conditions are sufficiently developed in India to justify reliance upon emigration as an efficient auxiliary in our struggles with famine. Of our whole population, only a small portion as yet exceeds its food-producing power." Accordingly rail-roads and irrigation works were considered as the two instruments for increasing the produce of the soil, facilitating its circulation, and thereby improving the general and social condition, and augmenting the collective wealth of the whole community. It is therefore proposed to devote the extra funds to be raised by additional taxation to the construction of reproductive public works. The objection to this system of so-called remunerative works was that they might yield very uncertain returns or perhaps no returns, but on the recurrence of a famine money must be had, and in the absence of funds it would be necessary to impose fresh burdens for meeting famine expenditure. The Committee therefore suggested that the most judicious and equitable outlay on which the produce of the new taxes should be expended would be the reduction of the public debt so that in the event of the recurrence of a famine new loans might be contracted without burdening the general revenue. The Committee submitted that if this system be scrupulously adhered to it would fulfil the promise of the Finance Minister of religiously applying the revenue from additional taxation to the Famine Insurance Fund.

New Taxation.—The measures adopted to obtain the required revenue of £2,000,000 were as follows: In Bengal a cess of 2 per cent. on land was imposed last year and a tax on tradesmen and dealers has been imposed in the current year. The last tax will embrace earnings above one hundred rupees and the maximum limit of the tax will not exceed Rs, 500. In the N. W. P. Oude and the Punjab an additional rate on land will be levied as well as a tax on the trades, dealings and industries. In the Madras and Bombay Presidencies the idea of a land cess has been abandoned and in its place an additional duty on salt will be levied. The License tax has been made universal throughout India. The Government has taken the opportunity of the enhancement of the salt duty in Madras and Bombay to remit 2 annas of the salt duty in Bengal, which has resulted in a loss of 20 lacs of rupees per annum. This remission will not afford any sensible relief to the consumers of salt, while it has unnecessarily sacrificed revenue.

LAND ADMINISTRATION.

Rent Question.—With reference to the remarks of the Committee on the subject of the enhancement of rent submitted in December 1876, the Government of Bengal in April last forwarded to this Association a copy of its letter to the Government of India on the subject. As the Government proposed to legislate only regarding the recovery of arrears of uncontested rent, the Committee in their reply confined themselves to that subject. They observed that unless the proposed measure removed the grounds on which the tenants urge vexatious pleas with a view to harass the zemindar and put off the payment of rent to an indefinite period, it would afford no substantial relief. It should also provide a speedy procedure for the adjudication of suits and adequate facilities for the execution of decrees. The Committee enumerated some of the pleas and suggested that some clear and definite rules should be laid down to check them. They offered some suggestions under this head such as requiring the landlord to specify the yearly rent in every rent receipt, fixing the number of instalments in which rent was payable, and limiting the rate of interest on arrears at 12 per cent. In case of tender of payment the tenant should be required to deposit the rent in court within seven days from the date of alleged tender, the pleas that the defendants had co-sharers and that he was liable for a part of the rent only and not the whole &c. might be obviated by extending the operation of section 26 of the Rent Act to all classes of tenures. To obviate the plea of non-service of summons, the process might be affixed at the usual place of residence of the defendant, or in the village in which the land was situated, or at the mal cutchery of such land or at the village chowree or chowpal or some other conspicuous place of the village in which the land might be situate. To bring the suit to a speedy termination, the summons should contain a notice requiring the defendant to appear within eight days at the risk of the case being decided *ex parte*, and immediate execution issued. It should be further provided that within eight days from the date of defendants' appearance he should be examined by the Court, notice of such examination being given to the plaintiff, and the defendant should be required to file on the day of his examination all documentary proofs in support of his pleas. In case the claim be contested the court should settle the issues on the day of examination and fix another day within a fortnight for final hearing and determination of the suit. The Committee then recommended a simplification of the law of distraint and with regard to the execution of decrees the sale of the occupancy tenure in satisfaction of a decree for arrears of rent. Lastly, the Committee urged that eviction should follow a decree for any instalment of rent due. They are glad to learn that the Government of Bengal has embodied their suggestions in the Bill, which it has submitted to the Government of India.

Wards' Estates.—In August 1876 the Committee offered some suggestions for the disposal of the profits of Wards' Estates. The Government referred the representation of the Committee to the Board for opinion as to whether any modification of the Board's circular of the 22nd October 1874 was desirable. The Board in reply approved of the suggestions of the Committee and said that on a review of the previous correspondence they had come to the conclusion that it was unnecessary to lay down any hard and fast rule, or even to enumerate any general principles applicable to all estates. The Board admitted that its objection to the accumulation of funds went too far and in its cir-

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cular it pushed the idea of improvement to extreme. The Board further expressed the desirability of leaving a ward of court on his attaining his majority with sufficient fund to meet all wants as also calamities of season and exceptional demands. The management of each estate, it said, must depend upon individual circumstances. After devoting a reasonable sum to improvements the surplus profits might be invested in Government securities or utilised in enlarging and rounding off the property. The Lieutenant Governor having expressed his approval of the Board's views desired submission of a draft circular in modification of its circular of 2nd October 1874. The amended circular which it submitted to Government embodied the views expressed by it in the communication referred to above, and it further added that sums remaining at credit, after payment of debts, up to a limit, in ordinary cases of 10 per cent. of their amount, might be spent by the manager upon improvements. In deciding upon any improvements to be undertaken, the manager must act under the special direction in each case of the Court of Wards.

THE FAMINE.

There being a consensus of opinion in this part of the country that the distress arising from scarcity and famine in the Southern Presidency and other Provinces of the empire required charitable relief, particularly after the appeal from the Madras Government, a private meeting was held at the house of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Sir Richard Garth to consider the measures to be adopted for raising subscriptions for famine relief. There was, however, a difference of opinion as to the necessity of a public gathering. The Chief Justice, however, received small subscriptions which were applied towards the maintenance of nurseries for the relief of famine orphans.

The impression which had gained ground that the Government of India disapproved any public movement for devising measures for famine relief having been removed by the minute of His Excellency the Viceroy after His Excellency's visit to Madras, the Committee of this Association addressed a general circular to influential European and native gentlemen of this city soliciting their opinion on the points, *viz.*, whether an organised and united movement should be made to collect subscriptions, and what would be the best way of making such a movement, whether by a public meeting at the Town Hall, or by the appointment of a large and influential committee.

The replies showed that there was a pretty unanimity of opinion as to the propriety of collecting subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers from the famine in Southern India and elsewhere, but opinion differed as to whether a public meeting should be held or a large influential committee representing all sections of the community should be formed. With a view to decide this question and to adopt such other steps as might be deemed advisable in the furtherance of the movement a meeting of the promoters was held at the rooms of the Association on the 15th September last, at which Sir Richard Garth presided. This meeting resolved upon a public meeting to give a formal sanction to the movement. A public meeting was accordingly held at the Town Hall on the 20th September last, and a Committee consisting of leading European and native gentlemen was constituted. The Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Relief Fund have dispensed about a lakh and twenty-five thousand rupees to the distressed in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay and parts of Northern India and Bengal.

INDIAN MANUFACTURES.

The Government of India in the Financial Department resolved that much economy in public expenditure might be effected by availing themselves of local manufactures for the supply of some of the stores which are now wholly obtained by indent on the Store Department of the India Office. A copy of this resolution having been forwarded to the Government of Bengal for opinion in regard to any rules and restrictions which it might recommend for substituting local purchases of certain kinds of stores for the agency of the Store Department of the India Office the Lieutenant-Governor appointed a Committee consisting of officers of the Public Works Department, the Board of Revenue, and Medical Department to whom three points were referred for consideration, first what articles could and should be obtained from local manufacturers, what from Europe, and what by local arrangements. The Government being of opinion that articles which were at present not obtainable by local manufacture would become so on its being known that Government would accept their supply from the local market, called upon the Association for an expression of their opinion on the subject. The Committee placed themselves in communication with some of the local manufacturers and importers and having obtained the necessary details informed the Stores-Purchase Committee that many of the articles used by the Public Works and Railway Departments might be locally purchased, except stationary and printing materials of which articles of finer and superior quality were not manufactured in this country. Some of the stores required by the Marine and Medical Departments were locally available, such as the surgical instruments of Bhowanipore. The Committee were of opinion that under due encouragement many of the articles now imported from Europe might in time be locally supplied. For detailed information on the subject of the Public Works and Railway Stores they forwarded Messrs. Sibkisto Daw and Co.'s communication on the subject.

WORKING OF THE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES ACT.

As the Act did not provide for any agency to be employed for the examination of plays and dramas, which might be considered objectionable, the Committee drew the attention of the Local Government to the omission, observing that the native public regarded the new law with apprehension, lest it should have any repressing effect upon the growth of the legitimate drama, which was but struggling into existence. They suggested the appointment of a committee of experts for the examination of dramas in cases to which the provisions of the Act it might be thought expedient to apply. In reply the Government said that it was not necessary to appoint a standing committee, and expressed a hope that no occasion would arise for having recourse to the repressive and penal sections of the Act. In any case no action would be taken by Government under Section 3 of the Act without the fullest enquiry and after such reference to experts and others as might be considered necessary.

THE CANNING STATUE.

This Association had initiated the movement to do honor to the late Earl Canning by erecting a memorial statue, and the Committee are glad to state that after an anxious suspense of nearly fourteen years from the date of order for the Statue, they had the pleasure of seeing the statue put in position in March last. It was unveiled on Monday the 18th March last, by His Excellency the Viceroy in the presence of a crowded and distinguished assembly of European and native gentlemen. His Honor the Lieut.-Governor as President of the Executive Committee addressed His Excellency and the meeting, explaining the causes which led to the delay in the execution of the statue and dwelt on the virtues of the deceased Governor-General whose memory the monument in bronze was intended to preserve. His Excellency the Viceroy delivered a most eloquent and graceful speech befitting the occasion, at the conclusion of which he said: "Gentlemen, I recognise, I appreciate, and I share the feelings which have induced you to add to the noble group of monumental statues already possessed by Calcutta, the effigy of that statesman who was the last Governor-General of the Company and the first Viceroy of the Queen. For I am persuaded that, throughout the long line of heroes and statesmen, whose fame has sprung into splendour from the clash of antogonistic elements in Indian life, there is no name more deserving of the gratitude and reverence of the people of this country than the name of Charles, Earl Canning." The statue was designed and commenced by the late Mr J. H. Foley R. A. and completed by his pupil M. T. Brock. With the pedestal it cost Rs. 42,000. Many members of the Canning Memorial Committee have been unhappily removed by death, but it is a matter of the greatest satisfaction to the surviving members that the task which they had undertaken about eighteen years ago to testify the gratitude of the Indian nation to the first and greatest Viceroy of Her Majesty the Queen has at last been brought to completion.

THE LATE MAHARAJA ROMANATH TAGORE.

The Committee have to perform the mournful duty of recording the death of their venerable President the late Maharaja Romanath Tagore, C.S.I., one of the founders and chief promoters of the British Indian Association, which melancholy event took place on Sunday the 10th June, 1877. The Maharaja held the office of President of this Association for about nine years, and during the five and twenty years he guided the Association with his counsel, support and devoted zeal, its interests and welfare were uppermost in his thoughts. The Committee recorded the following resolution on the death of their venerable leader:

"The Committee desire to place on record their sense of the great loss which the British Indian Association has sustained by the death of the Maharaja Romanath Tagore, Bahadoor, C.S.I. He was one of the founders of the Association and was, at its inaugural meeting, elected a member of its Managing Committee. In 1868 he was elected a Vice-President and in 1869 President of the Association. In 1873, he retired from the last named office, on his appointment to a seat in the Legislative Council of India, but he was re-elected to it in 1875. His exertions to promote the interests of the Association were unremitting. He came to the rooms of the Association almost every day and regularly attended the meetings of the Association and of its several committees, and nothing has been done during the career of the Association for five and twenty years, to which he did not pay his earnest attention, or which did not benefit by his valuable advice and suggestions. He personally superintended the financial affairs of the Association and thereby secured its prosperity. His thorough gentlemanliness, overflowing goodness of heart, and unswerving rectitude of purpose enabled him to maintain perfect harmony in the councils of the Association and to win the respect of all classes of the community. His labors in the cause of education and progress were most zealous and arduous, and whether as the head of the native community or as a member of the Supreme Legislative Council, or the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, or as a Fellow of the Calcutta University, or as a Justice of the Peace for the Town of Calcutta, he earnestly advocated everything that tended to the good of his countrymen. By his death the Committee have been deprived of a wise, energetic and revered colleague, the Association its leader, the Government a prudent, faithful and trusted adviser, and the native community an able and warm-hearted advocate, whose loss they greatly deplore."

On receiving the news of the death of the Maharaja His Excellency the Viceroy and His Honor the Lieutenant Governor conveyed in public letters, which have been published on the local papers, their high sense of the loss which the State and the native community have suffered by the demise of this, in the words of His Excellency the Viceroy, "wise, honest, and trusted adviser."

The friends and admirers of the Maharaja being desirous of preserving his memory resolved to erect a memorial which shall transmit his name to posterity. Their views meeting with the sympathy of representative men both European and Native in this city, a public meeting was held at the Town Hall to pay a united tribute of respect to his memory. The meeting held on the 16th August 1877, was presided over by the Hon'ble Lieutenant-Governor and attended by the *elite* of Calcutta Society. Among the Speakers, who proposed and seconded the Resolutions were the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice McDonnell, and other leading gentlemen, &c., representing the different sections of the community.

The first resolution was as follows:—

That this meeting deeply laments the death of the Maharaja Romanath Tagore C.S.I., and desires thus publicly to recognize the eminent services rendered by him to his country and to the State. It would place on record its sense of the loss sustained by the community in the death of one, who while distinguished by his many private virtues and by his unselfish devotion to his country's special interests, was at the same time a faithful counsellor to Government and a trusted interpreter between the rulers and the ruled, and it has gathered here to pay to his memory a united tribute of affectionate regard."

The meeting further resolved that subscriptions be invited for the purpose of erecting a suitable memorial to his memory and a Committee was formed for the purpose of receiving subscriptions and making necessary arrangements for the memorial. The Committee are glad to state that the call for subscriptions has received a liberal response from all classes of the community and that it has been resolved to erect a marble statue in honor of the deceased Maharaja.

Babu Bejoykissen Mookerjea moved that the report be approved and adopted and that the accounts be passed.

Babu Saligram seconded the motion.

☞ See *Page* 250.

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